Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-114
Wednesday
16 June 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-114 16 June 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syria's Chief Delegate Comments Before 10th Round *[Damascus Radio]* 1
'Abd-al-Shafi To Attend First Session Only *[AL-QUDS 15 Jun]* 1
Talks Begin With Discussion of Golan Withdrawal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 1
More Details on Talks *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Lebanese-Israeli Talks Begin *[Beirut Radio]* 2
Rabinovich: Syrian Reply to Proposal 'Interesting' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Rubinstein on Issues for Israeli-Palestinian Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 3
'Ashrawi Discusses Negotiations, U.S. Position *[Cairo International]* 4
U.S. Stance Said Obstructing Peace Process *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Jun]* 5

Inter-Arab Affairs

U.S. Policy in Somalia Seen as 'Lesson' for Arabs *[London AL-HAYAH 13 Jun]* 6

Palestinian Affairs

Delegate al-Khatib Views Peace Talks, U.S. Role *[AL-FAJR 14 Jun]* 6
PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh: Jerusalem To Be Focus of Talks *[AFP]* 7
PLO Said Ready To Take Over Any Evacuated Land *[AL-NAHAR 15 Jun]* 8
'Arafat Said Dictating Tough Stance Amid Discord *[Jerusalem TV]* 9
'Arafat Wants U.S. as Full Partner in Peace Talks *[Tunis Radio]* 10
Paper Expresses Frustration at U.S. Policies *[AL-FAJR 14 Jun]* 10
AL-QUDS Gives Criterion for Round's Success *[AL-QUDS 15 Jun]* 10
'Arafat Speech Marks 67th Month of Intifadah *[Algiers VOP]* 11
'Arafat's Symbolic Role, Transformation Analyzed *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 12 Jun]* 13
Adviser Reportedly Fails To Form Dissident Fatah *[AL-SAFIR 11 Jun]* 14
ALF Warns Kuwait, Allies Against Executions *[AFP]* 14
PLO Reaction to Kuwaiti Death Sentences Reported *[INA]* 14
Deportees Send Message to Human Rights Conference *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 15
Paper: Troop Movement Shows Kuwait Is 'U.S. Base' *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 12-13 Jun]* 15

OPEC Affairs

Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister Rejects Production Quota
[Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET 13 Jun] 15
Algerian Energy Minister Reviews Current Issues *[Algiers Radio]* 16

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Laghouat Head of Security, 2 Others Killed *[Algiers Radio]* 17
State Council Receives Second Group of Party Figures *[Algiers Radio]* 17

Egypt

Government Working To Resolve Libyan-Western Dispute *[AL-WAFD 9 Jun]* 17
Defense Minister, U.S. Commander Discuss Cooperation *[MENA]* 17

People's Assembly Concerned Over UN Acts in Somalia *[MENA]* 17
Paper Blames U.S. Administration for Somalia Events *[MENA]* 18
Media Comment on Vienna Human Rights Conference 18
Development Link Viewed *[Cairo Radio]* 18
'Bitter Irony' Seen in Venue *[MENA]* 19
Three Planeloads of Aid Airlifted to Eritrea *[Cairo TV]* 19
Authorities Arrest 10 Muslim Brotherhood Members *[AL-AHRAM 10 Jun]* 19
New Efforts To Improve Domestic Security Reported 19
Ministry To Modernize Police Force *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Cairo, Governorates Implement New Plan *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Arrests of 36 Sudanese, 60 Palestinians Reported *[AL-SHA'B 8 Jun]* 20
Sidqi on Public Sector Pay Rise, Price Control *[Cairo Radio]* 20
Report Warns Against Zionist Control of Economy *[AL-AHALI 9 Jun]* 20

Libya

Iran's Besharati Delivers Message to al-Qadhdhafi *[IRNA]* 20
Niger President, Delegation Visit for Talks 21
Al-Qadhdhafi Hosts Banquet *[JANA]* 21
Leaders Visit Dam in Suluq *[JANA]* 21
Officials Discuss Cooperation *[JANA]* 21
Ousmane Says Visit Fruitful *[JANA]* 21
Communique Issued on Talks *[Tripoli TV]* 21
Ousmane Departs *[Tripoli Radio]* 22

Sudan

UN Humanitarian Affairs Envoy's Visit Suspended *[SUNA]* 22
Al-Bashir Planning To Make 'Large-Scale Changes' *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Jun]* 23
Economic Liberalization To Continue *[Omdurman Radio]* 24
Minister Warns Egypt Over Hala'ib *[AL-SAFIR 11 Jun]* 24
Egypt Seeks Meeting on Hala'ib, Other Issues *[SUNA]* 25

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Sources Cited on Possible Rapprochement With Yemen *[ARAB TIMES 7 Jun]* 26
Reconciliation Offer Positively Received *[ARAB TIMES 12 Jun]* 26
First Official Meeting Set *[London AL-HAYAH 12 Jun]* 27
Talk of Ties With Pro-Iraq States Termed Premature *[KUNA]* 28
Consultation With Allies Necessary *[KUNA]* 28
Iraqi Kurd Leader Discusses Regional Issues *[KUNA]* 28
Concern Over U.S. Ability To Mold Arab Opinion *[KUWAIT TIMES 9 Jun]* 29
Large-Scale Joint Military Exercises Concluded *[KUNA]* 29
Investigation of Investment Office Recommended *[KUNA]* 29

Oman

Economic Cooperation Accords Signed With India *[Delhi Radio]* 30
'New Chapter' Opened in Ties *[Delhi Radio]* 30

IRAQ

Air Defense Force Officers Reportedly Arrested *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 31
PUK Leader Queried on Moves To Overthrow Regime *[Voice of Kurdistan]* 31
SAIRI Chairman on Syria Visit, 5-Point Plan *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 32
Commentary Questions U.S. Human Rights Record *[Baghdad VOP]* 33
UN Human Rights Stand Challenged *[INA]* 34
Letter to UN Protests Recent U-2 Overflights *[Baghdad Radio]* 34
Notes to Arab League Protest Allied Use of Facilities 35

Sorties Flown 7, 8 Jun *[INA]* 35
Airspace Violated 9, 10 Jun *[Baghdad Radio]* 35
Sorties Conducted 11, 12 Jun *[INA]* 35
'Aircraft of Aggression' Drop Flares in Ninawa 8 Jun *[INA]* 35
Incidents in Ninawa, Irbil 11 Jun *[INA]* 35

ISRAEL

Rabin: Syria Rejected Initiatives for Meetings *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 36
Ideas for Golan Security Arrangements Detailed *[HA'ARETZ 16 Jun]* 36
Poll: Support for Giving Up Golan Heights for Peace *[HA'OLAM HAZE 16 Jun]* 37
Peres Views Palestinian Relations, Peace Talks *[Vienna TV]* 37
Labor MK To Meet With PLO Officials in Europe *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Rabin To Consider Easing Closure Restrictions *[Jerusalem TV]* 38
Shohat Against Long-Term Investments in Golan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
New Committee To Hear Settlements' Complaints *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
U.S. Citizen Sentenced to 6 Months for Aiding Hamas *[HA'ARETZ 16 Jun]* 38
Defense Official Notes Improving Ties With France *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38

JORDAN

World Bodies Urged To Appeal Kuwaiti Death Sentences *[Amman Radio]* 39
Al-Majali Urges Restoration of Arab Solidarity *[Amman Radio]* 39
Minister of Interior Licenses New Party *[AL-DUSTUR 15 Jun]* 39
Prince Returns From Vienna, Sworn In as Regent *[Amman TV]* 39
Report Details Arrest of Returning Arab Afghans *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 7 Jun]* 39

LEBANON

Army Opens Fire on Israeli Planes Overflying Sidon *[VOL]* 41
Two Palestinians Injured in Clash With Israelis *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Police Say Briton Target of Robbery, Not Kidnapping *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Saudi Ambassador Named; Japan Willing To Open Embassy *[VOM]* 41
Junblatt May Allow 'Many' Christians in PSP Command *[AL-SHIRA' 14 Jun]* 41

SYRIA

Source Explains U.S. Security Plan for Golan *[HA'OLAM HAZE 16 Jun]* 42
Press Comments on Rabin's 'Provocative' Statements *[Damascus Radio]* 42
Authorities Said To Release Former Ba'th Officials *[AL-RA'Y 15 Jun]* 43

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Iran's Borujerdi Continues Visit, Meets Hekmatyar *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Comments on Relations *[Kabul Radio]* 44
Hekmatyar Calls For 'New Phase of Brotherhood' *[Radio Message of Freedom]* 44
Commentator Welcomes Call For Start of Cabinet Work *[Kabul Radio]* 44

Bangladesh

Communists Split Into Reform, Hard-Line Factions
[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 10 Jun] 45
Split Formalized *[AFP]* 46

India

Rao Returns From Oman, Cancels Visit to Yemen *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Defendant in Stock Swindle Claims Rao Accepted Bribe *[AFP]* 46
Party Spokesman Reacts *[Delhi Radio]* 46

Five Militants, Eight Others Killed in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 46
Pakistan Said Behind Counterfeit Currency in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 47
Commentary Notes Features of Prithvi Missile *[Delhi International]* 47

Iran

Velayati Departs for Visit to Hungary *[IRNA]* 47
Commentary Criticizes U.S. Actions in Somalia *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Need Seen To Reform 'Passive' Foreign Policy *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 2 Jun]* 48
U.S. 'Tactics' Viewed *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 3 Jun]* 49
Delegation to Vienna Meeting To Offer Proposals *[IRNA]* 50
Commentary Criticizes Western Standards *[Tehran Radio]* 50
Opposition Sends Memo *[Baghdad Radio]* 51
Commentary Discusses 'Political Crisis' in Azerbaijan *[Tehran Radio]* 51
Daily Expresses Concern *[IRNA]* 52
President Meets With Farmers, Praises Efforts *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Law Enforcement Chief on Drugs, Kidnapping Rumors *[Tehran Radio]* 53
More on Tehran Arrest *[IRNA]* 53
Source Denies MKO Claim of Attack on Abadan Refinery *[IRNA]* 53
MKO Issues Statement on Presidential Election *[Voice of Mojahed]* 53

Nepal

Exports Rise by 37 Percent in First Half of Year *[THE RISING NEPAL 8 Jun]* 54
Rightist Democratic Party Urges Royal Leadership *[AFP]* 55

Pakistan

Paramilitary Search for CIA Killer 'Fruitless' *[AFP]* 55
Second Round of Government-Opposition Talks Held *[Islamabad TV]* 56
Spokesmen Comment *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Sharif Invites Leaders to Direct Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 56
Finance Minister Highlights Main Features of Budget *[Islamabad TV]* 56
Views Defense Spending *[THE NATION 10 Jun]* 57
'Significant Cuts' in Defense Funds *[THE NATION 15 Jun]* 57
Bhutto Says Budget Favors Business *[THE NATION 15 Jun]* 58
Supreme Court Refuses Appeal Request by Punjab Government *[Islamabad Radio]* 59
Punjab MP's Demonstrate, Demand Assembly Restoration *[Islamabad Radio]* 59

Arab-Israeli Talks

Syria's Chief Delegate Comments Before 10th Round

JN1506164393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Washington—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, Syria's chief delegate to the peace talks, says he hopes the 10th round, which began in the U.S. capital today, will be more successful than its predecessors and achieve progress. Speaking just before the beginning of the talks, al-'Allaf said time was not working in our favor. He noted 20 months have passed since the Madrid conference. Unless the peace process proves it is worth the effort, he added, the credibility of all these talks will be at stake.

Al-'Allaf dismissed the existence of a blueprint covering security arrangements between Syria and Israel. There has not been any discussion of security specifics, since basic guidelines and principles will have to be worked out first. There can be no discussion of security details before Israel commits itself to a complete territorial pullback, al-'Allaf emphasized.

Asked about a statement attributed to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin that the Syrian side has been informed there will be no total withdrawal from the Golan Heights and if this was actually communicated to the Syrian delegation, al-'Allaf said there is no truth in the report. Israel has never stated its lack of intention to effect a total withdrawal from the Golan Heights, he added. If anything, Israel has always signaled that it knows what Syria wants and that it will not make any offer objectionable to Syrian demands. However, Israel has yet to openly express a readiness to effect a total withdrawal. If the statements ascribed to Rabin are true, al- 'Allaf added, this means that the Israeli prime minister is damning himself as a man who does not want peace. He said that if it is true that Rabin has no intention of quitting occupied Arab territory, he is, in effect, derailing the peace process and must be held responsible for that.

'Abd-al-Shafi To Attend First Session Only

TA1506153493 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Jun 93 pp 1, 7

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Excerpts] Washington—[passage omitted] Dr. Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has expressed his displeasure at the course of the preparatory U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS, he said that he will not participate in the 10th round of negotiations this week except for the first session of talks. Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that he decided to head the first meeting after deliberations with his colleagues in the Palestinian delegation. [passage omitted]

Political circles in Washington said that the position adopted by the head of the Palestinian delegation was a protest against the U.S. stance, which was epitomized in the retreat of the U.S. role in terms of what had been agreed upon in the U.S. letters of assurances to the Palestinian team before the Madrid conference.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that the course of the preparatory dialogue with the United States was not encouraging at all and that the U.S. team dealing with the peace talks refrained from expressing readiness to play an active role in compelling the negotiating parties to abide by the terms of reference of the peace process.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi was assessing the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue two hours before the last session of the preparatory dialogue at the U.S. State Department. While stressing that the dialogue will again dwell on the U.S. role in the talks, Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi expressed pessimism over its results.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi said that these issues were raised by the Palestinian side at the meetings held on 10 and 11 June and that the U.S. position at those meetings was very negative. [passage omitted]

Talks Begin With Discussion of Golan Withdrawal

TA1506165693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Report from Washington by Razi Barqay]

[Text] The 10th round of peace talks, like the ones before, has started badly. The Syrians are angry over Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks, or at least at his reported remarks. If your prime minister really does not intend to get off the Golan, he can recall Itamar Rabinovich at once, they said. There is nothing to discuss if there is to be no full withdrawal, the chief Syrian delegate stated twice—once in Arabic, and again in English for the benefit of the Americans.

[Begin chief Syrian delegate al-'Allaf recording, in English] If it is true, and if it is confirmed by Mr. Rabinovich, it means that there is no reason why Mr. Rabinovich is here. This peace process is based on resolutions which say that Israel has to withdraw from the territories that it occupied in 1967. This peace process is based on a principle that says land for peace. If Israel declares now that they are not ready to fully withdraw from the territories they have occupied in 1967, it means that they are violating the very basis of this peace process, and that they shall bear the sole responsibility for destroying this peace process. [end recording]

The Syrian representative is warning that Israel will bear the sole responsibility, and Itamar Rabinovich is seeking to reassure him. Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli ambassador says, was repeating the familiar Israeli position that we

would definitely not pledge in advance to effect a withdrawal. Rabinovich revealed that the prime minister had empowered him to explain this matter to the Syrian delegation.

[Begin Rabinovich recording] The prime minister elucidated the issue to me, so that I can elucidate it to those who are supposed to hear it. In response to a question from an opposition Knesset member on whether it is true that Israel has informed Syria of its willingness to offer full withdrawal in return for full peace, his answer was: No. This is the only precise thing that can be said about that session. The rest of the references and quotations and alleged quotations of remarks made at the session are imprecise. If the Syrians ask me—as they may at the meeting—they will receive the appropriate clarifications. [end recording]

There have been no statements to the media on the Israeli-Palestinian track, but disagreements emerged in the session which began two hours ago. The Palestinians are demanding a paper of principles that will pave the way for some kind of political independence, while Israel is seeking to make do with a paper speaking of autonomy without committing itself to the nature of the permanent arrangement. Will the parties manage to draft a joint paper? A senior Israeli official told us tonight—on the explicit condition that his name be withheld from the report—that everything depends on the phone call the Palestinians receive from Tunis. The man who will determine whether there is to be a joint paper, he said, is after all Yasir 'Arafat.

More Details on Talks

TA1606052593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The 10th round of talks between the Israeli and Arab delegations has begun in Washington. First of all, here are some details of the talks with the Palestinians. Our correspondent Razi Barqay in Washington reports that the initial stress in the talks was on lowering expectations.

[Begin Barqay recording] The difficulty with the Palestinians can be summed up by the following story. Not all of the members of the Palestinian delegation have reached Washington, and Faysal al-Husayni himself has still not arrived. Hanan 'Ashrawi carped over the fact that King Husayn is about to land in Washington with a large entourage. If we had our own independent state and our own airline, 'Ashrawi said, we would not need any favors from the Jordanians in order to be able to fly here. Then, all of our delegation members would have arrived. This is the whole story in a nutshell. The Palestinians want a document of principles that will guarantee a full Israeli withdrawal, as well as some signs of Palestinian sovereignty already during the interim stage.

Israel, for its part, said that the document must focus exclusively on autonomy, not on the permanent solution. The most pressing matter is the question of Jerusalem. Israel asserts that there is no point in mentioning Jerusalem in the document. Hanan 'Ashrawi said a failure to mention Jerusalem would mean that the Palestinians were lending their hand to annexation. Israel is separating Jerusalem from the rest of the territories and establishing facts on the ground. We will never accept what you Israelis call united Jerusalem, 'Ashrawi said.

Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation, replied that an attempt by any party to introduce the question of Jerusalem into the declaration of principles at this stage, would be, to all intents and purposes, tantamount to an attempt to derail the negotiations.

How does one circumvent this land mine then? By establishing a Palestinian-Israeli working group that will already start working today on the formulation of a draft document of principles. Depending on the viewpoint one chooses to take, this is either a sign of progress or yet another committee designed to gain some more time. [end recording]

Our correspondent Arye Golan is also in Washington following the talks with the Syrians. Here is his report.

[Begin Golan recording] The proposal to discuss the principles of the security regime that will be implemented between Israel and Syria was made by Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich. The initiative was designed to circumvent the deadlock regarding the Syrian demand for full withdrawal and the Israeli demand for full peace. The head of the Israeli delegation did not propose discussing the practical aspects of the security arrangements but rather the question of which principles were acceptable to both countries and capable of meeting their respective security needs. The Syrians were told that the Golan Heights were a crucial security issue for Israel. The Syrian response to the Israeli initiative was described as interesting by Israeli sources. We understand, said Muwaffaq al- 'Allaf, the head of the Syrian delegation, that the security arrangements will not be similar to the disengagement agreements from 1974. Our countries were in a state of war at that time, whereas now we area talking about two countries which will live together in peace. Just at this point in the discussion, a siren suddenly sounded in the State Department building. The discussions were immediately broken off, and the members of the various Middle East delegations were evacuated from the building together with all of the other staffers. There was no bomb or fire at the State Department, thank God, and Professor Itamar Rabinovich later said that the false alarm was the most exciting thing that happened on the first day of the talks' resumption. [end recording]

Lebanese-Israeli Talks Begin

NC1606070293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The first session of the 10th round of the bilateral Arab-Israeli talks held yesterday were tense. It was

compounded by a false fire alarm in the State Department building that forced the Arab and Israeli negotiators and hundreds of employees to leave the building in haste. When it was ascertained that it was a false alarm, the negotiators did not return to the halls because the meetings were almost over. But the Israelis and Palestinians continued their sharp discussions near a fire engine in front of one the building's doors.

In the Lebanese-Israeli talks, Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation, said that discussions in this first meeting focused on the essential issues, adding that he discussed the ideas that the Israeli side had already presented in the ninth round.

Sources said that the Lebanese side presented a detailed study of the Israeli paper that highlighted the main points in the Lebanese position, the most important of which is that Lebanon is not willing to regard Israel other than an occupying state and that it will not deviate from this position. The sources stressed that the essential differences will continue as long as there is no agreement on a clear definition of words and phraseology.

Rabinovich: Syrian Reply to Proposal 'Interesting'

TA1606070193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The peace talks in Washington resumed yesterday. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan spoke with Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks with the Syrians after the initial meetings.

[Begin recording] [Rabinovich] The term security regime, as opposed to security arrangements, is employed when two countries move from a state of conflict to a state of peace. The parties then establish a comprehensive regime to govern their relations, which takes into account each country's respective interests, as well as its security needs and constraints, and try to formulate an equation that each party can live with. This is what the term refers to. These are only very initial and hesitant discussions, especially with regard to the Syrian side. I do not know whether the discussions will take off over the next three weeks. At any rate, today's beginning was quite promising.

[Golan] What do you understand from the Syrian response to your proposal to discuss a security regime? They said that they realize that this will not be the same as the 1974 Disengagement Agreements, which were signed when Syria and Israel were in a state of war, but rather a security regime between two countries coexisting in peace. What does this mean with regard to the security arrangements? Are the Syrians implying that these arrangements could be less stringent because there will be peace?

[Rabinovich] No. It means two things. It means that the Syrians want to signal that they have come to attain a comprehensive, not a partial, arrangement. More importantly—and I am glad that Mr. al-'Allaf made these statements in public—the head of the Syrian delegation said that we should discuss security arrangements between countries that will live together in peace. That, for him, was an opportunity to give us a discreet signal that the Syrian concept of peace may be more far-reaching than that implied in other statements. From that aspect, it was an interesting message.

[Golan] But after briefly discussing security regimes and security principles, you will ultimately once more come against the real problems dividing Israel and Syria which are the Golan Heights and the concept of full peace.

[Rabinovich] The present framework of discussion is not our choice. We would be very happy to deal with the real issues and make progress. Syria is the one holding things up. At the same time, however, Syria wants to see this process through, and we respect its desire and are willing to give the Syrians time to let their decision ripen. If possible, we would prefer not to simply waste time on futile maneuvers but also to discuss issues of real significance. That is what we did today and will apparently continue to do over the coming days. [end recording]

Rubinstein on Issues for Israeli-Palestinian Talks

TA1606080993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with the Palestinians, in Washington by Ya'el Dan and Ya'aqov Eylon—live]

[Text] [Eylon] Mr. Elyaqim Rubinstein, the head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with the Palestinians, is now on the phone with us from Washington.

[Rubinstein] Good morning to you and to our listeners.

[Eylon] Is there any agreement at all this morning? Is work already beginning on a joint declaration of principles? Could you enlighten us on the techniques of going about this?

[Rubinstein] Well, I would not like to speak of agreement just yet. I hope that we will start doing some work. The expectations should be directed at the Palestinian side, and we hope they will help us focus on the document of principles. If this is done, there may be some chance for this.

[Eylon] Which principles would Israel like to see in this document?

[Rubinstein] The principles under discussion are the aims of the negotiations, the structure of the institutions during the interim arrangements, as well as security and judicial affairs.

[Eylon] What are the aims of the negotiations?

[Rubinstein] I do not want to get into details right now. That is best left for the actual negotiations themselves. However, there is an entire list of issues that could potentially be incorporated in the declaration of principles. Some of these issues appeared in each side's own version of a draft proposal, as well as in the U.S. bridging proposal from the previous round, which was not agreed upon. Therefore, there are various fields with potential for an agreement, and there are also spheres in which we have to crack some tough kernels of disagreement. One major issue, for example, is the applicability of the arrangements. The Palestinians are demanding full territorial applicability, or in other words saying: give us the keys and then we will see. Our approach is to implement a massive transfer of functional authorities, which will, of course, also have various territorial aspects, but will not constitute a comprehensive transferal of territory. This is one field that requires some sort of bridging effort.

[Eylon] Could you confirm the report about Israel's proposal to establish cantons in the territories?

[Rubinstein] I only read about it in the papers.

[Dan] Mr. Rubinstein, if that is the case, then one could indeed say that Israel makes do with very little, if all the recent talk about a breakthrough is only an agreement in principle to establish a joint Palestinian-Israeli team to try and formulate a joint declaration of principles.

[Rubinstein] I do not want to use words like breakthrough. These terms are employed by journalists. These are very difficult, tough, and complex negotiations, and I would not like to make any dramatic remarks. If we formulate a joint declaration of principles that will, for example, open the way to tackle issues that can be implemented such as the proposed early transfer of powers in various fields as well as other issues, then this will constitute an important step forward. I would suggest that we not use descriptions like breakthrough until after the fact.

[Eylon] Thank you very much, Mr. Elyaqim Rubinstein.

'Ashrawi Discusses Negotiations, U.S. Position

NC1606095093 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, in Washington, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Ashrawi: Good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

['Ashrawi] Good morning.

[Al-Jundi] What are the main points that the Palestinian delegation will emphasize during the new round of peace talks with the Israelis?

['Ashrawi] There are several points: some related to the Israeli side—the substance of the negotiations and the Israeli practices on the ground—and others related to the U.S. position, policy, and the effective role of the so-called full partner. We were engaged in preparatory talks with the Americans to define the American positions within the officially declared U.S. policy on essential issues, such as the definition of the occupied territories and the need to deal with them as an integrated whole, the issue of Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories, and other questions related to Israeli settlement activity and the terms of reference for the peace process. There was no agreement, and there was indignation over the American position on the essence of the negotiations and on the mechanism of American action. When the Americans intervene, they flagrantly and completely take Israel's side.

Concerning negotiations with Israel, it is obvious that the Israelis are not taking the negotiations seriously. They are taking unilateral action in the occupied territories. I particularly refer to the closure of Jerusalem and its removal from the heart of the occupied territories. This creates a reality that conflicts with the bases, principles, and objectives of the peace process. We do not want words only; deeds must be harmonious with and committed to the terms of reference for the peace process.

[Al-Jundi] Based on the Palestinian-American talks before the start of the 10th round, can we say that this round will indeed witness the signing of a joint Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles?

['Ashrawi] We will work for that, but it is obvious that the Americans have adopted a biased position toward Israel. This is nothing new, but when the Americans intervene to promote a certain formula, they need to be more neutral. It is difficult to speculate now on the signing of a joint document of principles. Signs so far have not been encouraging. However, we will work to reach a genuine agreement on a real substance practically and politically binding to Israel.

[Al-Jundi] Can we say that Mr. Faysal al-Husayni's recent statements that the Palestinians will resort to armed struggle if the peace negotiations fail were part of Palestinian tactics, or do they actually reflect the current status of negotiations?

['Ashrawi] I believe that both options are there. Armed struggle is a right of every occupied nation. The Palestinian people did not abandon this right. We have opted for peace negotiations as an alternative at this stage, but this does not conflict with the Palestinian people's right to resisting the occupation. Concerning the statements, they reflect the opinion of Mr. Faysal al-Husayni. But as I said, the Palestinian people did not abandon this right. At every stage of the struggle, the Palestinian people choose the appropriate tools for the battle. The battle is now political. Naturally, if the political battle fails, all options will be open.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Ashrawi, are there now contacts between you and members of the other Arab delegations to coordinate with the Arab stands vis-a-vis the Israeli position?

['Ashrawi] Yes. There are constant contacts. There are contacts at official government level and contacts between the delegations. There was in fact a coordination meeting attended by all the heads of the Arab delegations to assess what had taken place so far and to coordinate and prepare for the 10th round.

[Al-Jundi] Are you expecting Washington to play a major role in this round, especially because the United States is always stressing that it will in fact undertake all the tasks of a full partner in the negotiations?

['Ashrawi] It is evident that the United States has the intention to intervene and to work intensively. But the objective is not the intervention and action, it is the nature and quality of the intervention and action. We do not want intervention that decides matters in favor of the Israeli side or intervention that is biased toward Israel. The sponsor country's responsibility is summed up in making the parties abide by the terms of reference and by the bases and objectives of this process. It is not the responsibility of finding a way out for any party's tight situation or violations.

[Al-Jundi] Dr. 'Ashrawi, are there specific points on the joint declaration of principles with the Israeli side that the Palestinian side is emphasizing?

['Ashrawi] The basis for all the Palestinian practical, negotiating, and political stands is to preserve the unity of the occupied territories and exercise authority over them [mumarasat al-wilayah 'alayha], especially the issue of Jerusalem that is now subjected to all kinds of practical steps to annex it and alter its features. Israel has made Jerusalem its highest priority. It has undertaken these steps to predetermine the future of Jerusalem. We are now dealing with the Jerusalem issue within the framework of the geographical authority on the basis that Jerusalem is part of the occupied territories and that the entire territories cannot be split up. This is a fundamental issue. We also want to underline the terms of reference and linkage between the two stages and the other authority and prerogatives.

[Al-Jundi] We thank Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, who spoke to us now from Washington. Thank you very much, Dr. 'Ashrawi.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

U.S. Stance Said Obstructing Peace Process

PM1606102293 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jun 93 p 13

['Abd-al-Wahhab Badrakhan article: "Washington and the Salvage of Negotiations"]

[Text] On the eve of the 10th round of bilateral negotiations observers and those concerned with negotiations are asking this question: Is Washington really seeking to salvage the peace process, or is it contributing to obstructing it by adopting the Israeli concept in letter and spirit? The ninth round ended with some "progress" in procedural questions, but suffered a big political failure. If Washington insists in one way or another on its joint (Palestinian-Israeli) declaration, it will have obstructed the negotiations. However, this insistence is not on the cards, and at any rate, it has never been the problem. The problem has always been and still is that the declaration reflected the U.S. mentality running the process. It also exposed U.S. positions which had been camouflaged by twisting of words.

The Palestinians had no option but to reject this declaration, which was in a way a shock for them. Neither they nor the other Arabs expect a U.S. position supportive of Arab rights, but that sudden announcement of the true intentions torpedoes the foundations of U.S. "sponsorship" of the peace process. As for the "full partner" game, it was exposed in record time after the terrible collapse of the guarantees and pledges on which it had been based. The shock came as a result of the U.S. settlement of a number of questions: Washington does not recognize the existence of an "occupied territory." Nor does it recognize the existence of a people, Jerusalem's special status, the existence of a problem over the holy city, or the need to build firm foundations for a peace that should be genuine and able to last. As a result of this shock, new questions emerged. They were conveyed by the Palestinian delegation to the preparatory meetings of the 10th round. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi expressed the tenor of these questions by saying that the talks with the United States revolve around the mechanism of its playing the role of a full partner so that it will be "neutral or at least less biased." If Washington was surprised by the questions and refused to answer them, its reaction changes nothing as regards the real position. Of course, the Americans will seek to claim neutrality, and they will expect others to deal with this claim as a reality. But using the "sole superpower's" capacity to impose erroneous concepts will be insufficient to achieve a settlement worthy of the name.

What is more strange is for Washington to condemn questions addressed to it, reminding the Palestinians that the negotiations are between them and the Israelis, not between them and the Americans. What is the difference? This is the gist. There is no difference. Proof of this is that the United States is adopting Israel's concept of a settlement to the letter, defending it, and exerting pressure on the Arab parties to accept it. So they are Americans when necessary, U.S.-Israeli in every confrontation with the Arabs, and they are always Israeli. [sentence as published] Thus to negotiate with Israel means to negotiate with the United States, hence neither of them can be neutral.

Among the factors which do not always seem to be helping to salvage the negotiations or make them a

success is the method chosen by the Americans to deal with, or give the impression that they are dealing with, some members of the Palestinian delegation. Sometimes they are dissatisfied with Hanan 'Ashrawi because her statements are alarming, other times they are not satisfied with Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi because he listens to average Palestinians, and finally they are indignant at Faysal al-Husayni because he did not respond immediately to the invitation-"summons" to Washington. This method is erroneous in terms of both its foundation and objective. It especially reflects deliberate disregard for the foundations from which the peace process in Madrid proceeded. True, the U.S. Administration is pursuing a haphazard foreign policy everywhere, but what is more true is that it is moving quickly toward a clumsy settlement in the Middle East based on nothing but one sole factor: the Arab side's weakness.

Inter-Arab Affairs

U.S. Policy in Somalia Seen as 'Lesson' for Arabs

PM1506150893 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jun 93 p13

[Khayrallah Khayrallah article: "The Arabs and the Lesson of Somalia"]

[Text] The U.S. strike in Somalia does not mean that there is a new, more daring global U.S. policy. The strike was a part of the "containment" policy mentioned by Secretary of State Warren Christopher and, before him, by Assistant Secretary of State for Political Affairs Peter Tarnow. If it had any aim, the strike was meant to contain the Somali situation and prevent it from expanding and becoming a major crisis while the UN forces were making efforts to restore normal conditions in the country. In brief, the United States went in to help the United Nations, which had taken over the burden of continuing the "humanitarian operation" that began under President Bush's administration.

What is noticeable in the new U.S. policy is not the Somali operation, despite the dangerous situation there and the fear of possible negative repercussions for the entire Horn of Africa region, but rather the fact that the United States is these days trying to increase the number of the UN Security Council's permanent members from five to seven. More than ever before, the United States apparently now wants more members capable of bearing political, military, and financial burdens in the context of what can be described as "limited U.S. hegemony" in the world. It is no coincidence that the two states tipped by the United States for permanent membership of the Security Council are Germany and Japan, the two economic powers capable of filling the political vacuum created by the collapse of the Soviet Union, but in a supplementary role, not an opposite or rival role to that of the United States.

On the eve of the 10th round of negotiations with the Israelis, the Arabs can get an idea about the new U.S. policies from what happened in Somalia. They are effective and limited policies at the same time. If anything, they confirm that whoever wants U.S. assistance must first help himself. At present it is difficult to ask much of Washington in terms of "pressure" on Israel, bearing in mind that the term "U.S. pressure on Israel" should not exist in the Arab political vocabulary. The slogan that the Arabs could raise these days is "take and demand," hoping that the Clinton administration reaches the conviction that no settlement in the region can survive in the absence of a minimum degree of justice. Efforts should focus on convincing the United States that a just settlement that gives the Arabs some of their rights would be in its own interest so long as peace in the region is a U.S. "vital interest." Is that too much to ask for?

Palestinian Affairs

Delegate al-Khatib Views Peace Talks, U.S. Role

TA1506154693 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 14 Jun 93 p 16

[Interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli talks, by Khalid Abu-'Akir; place and date not given]

[Text] Q: How do you evaluate your meetings with American officials?

A: It is still early to make evaluations. We cannot make evaluation judgments yet. We had two meetings, and we are having the third before the beginning of the round. So far, it seems that there isn't anything from the Arab side to encourage us to believe that there are reasons for optimism in the next round.

Q: What is the main aim of the meetings in Washington, D.C., with the State Department officials?

A: The main objective of these meetings, from the American point of view, is the preparation for the next round. From our point of view, we aim to discuss the Israeli practices in the occupied territories, not only (those) that violate Palestinian human rights but also those that preempt the outcome of the negotiations by creating unilateral actions and highlighting on the issue of Jerusalem.

The closure of Jerusalem is an Israeli implementation of its vision of the future by virtue of its military power, regardless of the outcome of the negotiations which are supposed to determine the future of the city according to the terms of reference.

Q: What do the Palestinians expect from the deliberations?

A: We expect the American side to reiterate its position as it came in the letter of assurances. We also expect the American side to get the feeling of urgency vis-a-vis the

practices on the ground, especially the closure of Jerusalem and settlement-building.

We hope that we will manage to convey the message that Israel cannot have its cake and eat it too. Israel cannot continue creating illegal facts on the ground, like the closure of Jerusalem and the settlement process, and at the same time continue the peace negotiations.

The day will come when the Palestinian side will have put Israel in front of one of these two possibilities: Either they want to determine the future of the area by negotiating according to the terms of references that have been accepted by both parties, or they will determine the future of the area by the virtue of their military power.

They cannot have it both ways. They have only one option of those two. They will manage to create the feeling of urgency on this matter with the Americans.

Q: Do you think the main aim of the meeting is for the Americans to try to close the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli positions regarding the joint declaration of principles?

A: We know that the new American administration has reiterated its commitment to the letter of invitation; however, the Americans also submitted a paper in the ninth round that includes political contacts that mark a departure from the previous American position in the letter of assurances, which was reiterated in this letter from Mr. Clinton.

That's why we felt alarmed as a result of this paper, and that's why we wanted it reiterated—so that we can make sure that the American side is still committed to its previous position.

At the same time, we are trying to urge the American side to play its role in preventing Israel from taking these illegal unilateral actions, because it jeopardizes the outcome of the negotiations.

Q: Do you think the general atmosphere at the moment is suitable to reach a declaration of principles between the Palestinians and Israel in the 10th round of talks?

A: Until now, there are basic differences which do not allow me to feel optimistic vis-a-vis reaching an agreement on a declaration of principles with the Israeli side.

Q: What do you think will happen in the 10th round of talks?

A: We have to wait and see what will happen in the 10th round.

Q: What was the basis for the Palestinians' decision to return to the talks?

A: As you know, the party I represent has reservations on this decision of participation. That's why I don't feel there are enough justifications for the Palestinian side to participate in this round, unless they have a negotiating plan that would put the issue of Jerusalem at the heart of the agenda.

Q: Does that mean you won't participate in this round either?

A: We will make the decision to participate or not at the end of these preconsultations with the American side.

Q: You are a member of this preconsultation delegation. Is this in contradiction with your declared position regarding participation in the talks and delegation?

A: No, I don't see any contradiction.

It is separate and different. These are contacts with the American side about the future of the negotiations. Besides, I did not resign from the Palestinian delegation. I am still an active member of the delegation and we (the People's Party), as a partner in this process, feel we are still in the heart of this peace process.

However, because of well-known reasons, we have chosen to suspend participation in the last round. We will take our decision vis-a- vis the next round at the end of these preconsultations.

Q: If nothing is achieved in the 10th round of negotiations, do you think there will be a possibility for the Palestinians to keep going to the peace talks?

A: It's not possible for me to predict what the Palestinian position will be if this round fails like the previous round.

Q: The Palestinian mood in general is not in favor of the peace talks. Won't that put you in a critical situation if nothing is achieved in the 10th round while the Palestinians continue to go to the talks?

A: I think you are right. The Palestinian public position is negative for the continuation of the talks. However, I believe that the Palestinian public would be supportive of negotiations if it produced results. So, I think that the Palestinian official position in the future should take into consideration the public feeling and sentiments in this regard.

PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh: Jerusalem To Be Focus of Talks

NC1506153093 Paris AFP in English 1440 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Tunis, June 15 (AFP) - Palestinians want to discuss the status of the disputed city of Jerusalem at Middle East peace talks resuming Tuesday [15 June] in Washington, PLO spokesman Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

"The 10th round of talks will focus on the new situation (Israel) created in the occupied territories to isolate Jerusalem and maintain the economic embargo of Gaza and the West Bank," he told AFP.

Palestinians complain that Israel's closure of the territories in March prevents them from visiting relatives and holy sites in East Jerusalem, which the Palestinians also want to be the capital of a future state.

Israel has until now refused to discuss the status of Jerusalem, which it occupied in 1967 and declared its united capital.

A Palestinian delegation raised the Jerusalem issue when it met U.S. officials in Washington last week ahead of the resumption of peace talks.

'Abd-Rabbuh said Palestinians wanted to reach a declaration of principles with the Israelis on a five-year interim period of self-rule in the territories.

But he added that last month's U.S. proposal to bridge differences over the proposed declaration was "inappropriate" as a basis of discussion for autonomy arrangements.

A declaration should set down "a specific timetable...for a withdrawal and redeployment of Israeli forces as well as the transfer of authority to a provisional Palestinian government," he said.

"The main challenge remains Israel's recognition of UN Resolution 242 and the need for the interim Palestinian authority to extend its rights over all of the territories occupied by Israel since 1967," 'Abd-Rabbuh said.

Resolution 242 calls on Israel to exchange occupied land for peace.

"We will not agree to discuss Gaza independently from other Palestinian territories," the spokesman said, adding "a withdrawal from Gaza must be accompanied by another step in the West Bank."

Mahmud 'Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, late Monday denied as "totally unfounded" reports of secret contacts between Palestinians and Israelis in European capitals.

U.S. and Arab sources said in Washington that the two sides plus the United States had held private talks in Norway on creating Palestinian zones of influence in the West Bank.

PLO Said Ready To Take Over Any Evacuated Land

TA1506182893 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 15 Jun 93 pp 1, 7

["Exclusive" to AL-NAHAR]

[Text] Gaza—Responding to a question on the issue of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza first, a senior PLO source said that the Palestinian leadership had decided to go with the Arab nation to the peace talks for the sake of a comprehensive, lasting, and just peace that ensures withdrawal from all the Arab territories, including Jerusalem, on the basis of the land-for-peace principle and implementation of resolutions of international legitimacy in letter and spirit.

The Palestinian official added: "We embarked on participating in the peace talks on the basis of the Palestine National Council and Arab summit resolutions." He noted that the Palestinian leadership is ready to take over any Palestinian territory from which the Israeli occupation forces are withdrawn—that is, liberated—as ratified by the Palestine National Council in 1974.

The Palestinian official stressed that the Palestinian people and their leadership will set up an independent national authority in the Gaza Strip should there be any Israeli withdrawal from there without prior notice or agreement. He said that the Palestinian people, with their nationalism, education, and specialized scientific competence can build a national authority in a civilized way that is in keeping with the precious sacrifices that they have made in defense of their land and sanctities.

The Palestinian official pointed out that if the current peace talks lead to a comprehensive agreement on an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories in conjunction with international guarantees—with the stipulation that withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories is carried out in phases, for example from the Gaza Strip and any other town—the Palestinian leadership will immediately set up an independent Palestinian national authority over any part or parts of those territories and will prepare for the subsequent phase.

The Palestinian official affirmed that the Palestinian leadership will not agree to negotiate over part of the Palestinian lands without knowing the fate of the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories. He stressed: "Conspiracies, maneuvers, or trial balloons cannot deceive us. The Palestinian leadership has acquired a militant, political, and international expertise over scores of years and has proved its competence in all the difficult battles that it has faced."

Regarding news media reports on recent secret U.S.-Palestinian-Israeli meetings in Norway, the Palestinian official stressed that the Palestinian leadership is accustomed to holding its negotiations in broad daylight and in public and has nothing to hide from the Palestinian people. He added that the Palestinian leadership was ready to meet with Israeli officials on all levels in public for the sake of establishing a just and comprehensive peace, the peace of the brave.

The Palestinian official pointed out that this was the shortest way to a genuine peace. He added: "We are still waiting to shake the brave hand after its owner addresses his people frankly on the importance of peace with the Palestinian people. There will be no stability except by recognizing our people's right to establish their independent Palestinian state."

On the PLO's relations with the Gulf states and their financial aid to the PLO, the Palestinian official said: "We did not go to the fraternal Arab Gulf states for the sake of money, but to clear the Arab climate and inform the brothers in the Gulf of the results of the ongoing peace talks and the Arab coordination in this respect. We went to the brothers to build fraternal relations and coordinate with them on the multilateral talks and on everything that concerns our Arab nation and its future.

The Palestinian official noted that the matter of financial aid to the PLO, the Palestinian people's representative, was up to the brothers in the Gulf states. They, more than others, appreciate the conditions of the Palestinian struggle and its urgent need for aid for the sake of steadfastness and protection of our sanctities.

'Arafat Said Dictating Tough Stance Amid Discord

TA1506185493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The Palestinian leadership is divided over the future of the negotiations with Israel. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that Faysal al-Husayni and several prominent PLO figures are in favor of launching a dialogue on the structure of autonomy at this stage. However, Yasir 'Arafat, who is supported by Dr. 'Abd-al-Shafi and others, has ruled in favor of a tough stance, which is liable to foil concrete progress in the current round.

Following 'Arafat's dictum, the Palestinians are demanding an immediate discussion of the status of Jerusalem, the closure, and an Israeli pledge to redeploy the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in the territories.

Despite that, al-Husayni has voiced the hope that the Clinton administration's desire to promote the process will help achieve a breakthrough.

The Palestinian delegation has not been authorized to enter substantial discussions as yet.

Abu-Zayyad on Situation in Territories, Talks

TA1606091393 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Telephone interview with Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, member of the Palestinian advisory committee, by Ya'el Dan and Ya'aqov Eylon—live]

[Text] [Eylon] Good morning to Ziyad Abu-Zayyad, who is a member of the Palestinian advisory committee.

[Abu-Zayyad] Good morning.

[Eylon] We just heard what was perhaps a hint of concern in Elyaqim Rubinstein's statements. He implied that despite the agreement on the establishment of a committee to discuss principles, the Palestinians may seek to focus on other issues and the discussions may be thus sidetracked and fail to make progress. Could you give us your own angle with regard to this concern?

[Abu-Zayyad] Elyaqim Rubinstein actually explained the reason for his concern. He said that he was talking about functional [preceding word in English] autonomy, while the Palestinians were talking about territory. In my opinion, that is the crux of the problem between the Israeli and Palestinian sides. The Israelis are still thinking about autonomy. They think that they will continue to control the land and give the Palestinians some administrative powers. Until Israel divests itself of this delusion, I greatly doubt whether we can make progress.

[Eylon] So the Palestinians are talking about territories, and Israel is talking about authorities. Which mutually acceptable principles can be extracted from these divergent positions?

[Abu-Zayyad] Autonomy means self-government in every field, including control over land. It covers everything except security matters and foreign relations. We agreed to an interim stage of Palestinian self-government during which we would manage all our affairs and wield full authority over the occupied land except for security matters and foreign relations. We agreed to discuss the final status of the territories at the end of the interim period. The Israeli side is attempting to guarantee its continued control over the territories after the interim stage.

[Dan] In the meantime, do you see any achievement or progress in the fact that both sides have agreed to set up a committee to discuss a joint declaration of principles?

[Abu-Zayyad] In my opinion this is an encouraging development on a symbolic level. However, there is still a wide margin of time in which to work to make sure that this succeeds and becomes a substantive achievement, not just a symbolic one. One of the things that must be done is for Israel to take steps to improve the situation inside the occupied territories. Israel should lift the closure over East Jerusalem, for example, and should halt some of its actions. Yesterday, people said that every time the peace talks resume, the tax collectors raid stores in villages and refugee camps....

[Eylon, interrupting] But Mr. Abu-Zayyad, I believe that even while we speak you are already realizing Mr. Rubinstein's fears that the Palestinians would launch a discussion on transitory issues, and avoid formulating a declaration of principles.

[Abu-Zayyad] No, no. Listen, first of all the atmosphere at the negotiations is very important. Every meeting held in a tense and hostile atmosphere will not turn into a businesslike discussion enabling progress. If you improve the atmosphere at a meeting—and I am not only talking about these negotiations, but everywhere—and start your discussions in a pleasant manner, you can make progress and accomplish agreement. If you create a tense and nervous atmosphere....

[Eylon, interrupting] But this is the old question of the cart before the horse, is it not? Do we first talk principles and then improve the atmosphere or the other way around?

[Abu-Zayyad] In my opinion, they should continue discussing principles. These principles could serve to guide the parties in their negotiations. However, one should also create a situation in which the Palestinian side will be capable of making progress. As a result of the Israeli actions inside the occupied territories, part of the delegation have already decided to stop participating in the talks; however, the Palestinian mainstream remains committed to the process despite all the difficulties and the very complex situation both in the occupied territories and abroad. You people must understand this. I have already said many times that in negotiations each party must not think only of itself but also about the other side. The Israeli side must understand the difficulties facing the Palestinians, just as the latter must understand the Israelis. We have reached a very difficult position, and we cannot make progress in the talks in light of the present situation in the territories.

[Eylon] Thank you, Mr. Ziyad Abu-Zayyad.

'Arafat Wants U.S. as Full Partner in Peace Talks

LD1606112693 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1000 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] PLO Chairman 'Arafat called on the U.S. Administration to be a full partner and a neutral and impartial intermediary in the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

In a press interview, 'Arafat said there is an Arab agreement that any solution should be comprehensive, and not bilateral, with all the Arab sides. He noted that there is a cautious attitude by all the [Arab] sides to make Israel miss the opportunity to split the Arab rank.

Paper Expresses Frustration at U.S. Policies

TA1506144493 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 14 Jun 93 p 4

[Editorial: "U.S. Policy Is the Decisive Factor"]

[Text] Dismay and frustration are felt by the majority of our people towards the foreign policies adopted and implemented by the Clinton administration. It was, therefore, of great importance and utmost necessity that the American position on a few essential points be clarified before a Palestinian decision on whether to join the next round of talks. For this reason, a Palestinian delegation engaged in deep discussions with the American administration last week on matters of substance relating to the faltering peace negotiations.

The fact that this new administration has done nothing so far to force Israel to end the closure of the occupied territories or stop its brutal violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people under its occupation has only stressed the traditional, official double-faced policy in Washington when the rights of the Palestinians are concerned.

Early expectations that the Clinton administration would differ from previous administrations and that it would take human rights violations seriously were apparently unjustified. It is clear for all those who wish to see: The daily Israeli trampling of human rights, and the enormous suffering that the occupation authorities are mercilessly inflicting upon the helpless civilian population in the occupied territories, all go uncondemned—unnoticed?—by the administration.

The fears of the Palestinians culminated just at the end of the ninth round of talks, when the administration proposed to the Palestinians an Israel-Palestinian joint statement of principles. The Palestinian leadership rightly considered the U.S. proposal to be a "point-by-point copy" of the Israeli statement of principles.

If these are indications of U.S. policy towards the conflict in this region and if this is the real interpretation of the United States as a "full partner" in the peace negotiations, then it is certainly in the benefit of real peace that all the Arabs boycott such negotiations until better terms are reached.

The sincerity of the Palestinian people for peace goes beyond any doubt, and it is their right to make sure that the other parties involved in the process are just as serious. It is the Palestinians' right to have clear-cut, written answers from the United States that it still clings to the principles in the letters of assurances, which paved the way for participation in the Madrid conference.

We hope that the U.S. answers will be convincing enough to the Palestinian delegation to justify continuing participation in the negotiations. We do indeed hope that the next round of talks will be the beginning of success, rather than an addition to previous failures. The policy of the U.S. administration can decide which direction the whole process will go.

AL-QUDS Gives Criterion for Round's Success

TA1506193693 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 15 Jun 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The 10th Round—the Criterion of Success or Failure"]

[Text] The 10th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks are slated to begin today in Washington without the same protests and objections that preceded the convocation of the ninth round. This comes at a time when the reasons for protest and objection are not only still valid but have increased.

The Arab negotiating parties did not spare the effort to intensify contacts among themselves with the aim of consulting, coordinating, and bringing positions closer. The new round was preceded by meetings at the highest

levels in the Arab capitals. Moreover, the foreign ministers of the Arab parties concerned with peace met and made decisions that they deemed to be appropriate in the current conditions or could be reformulated during the negotiations.

It is no secret to anyone that eyes are focused on Washington with a great deal of skepticism, especially since the experience of the Palestinians in particular, and the Arabs in general, does not encourage one to expect the United States to play the role that it had itself undertaken to fulfill in the negotiations and which it had called that of "full partner."

Most Palestinian, Arab, and foreign observers, including Israelis, have stressed that the talks cannot possibly succeed or emerge from deadlock unless Washington exerts pressure on the party whose positions led the talks to a dead end. Everyone is expecting an active and positive U.S. role that goes beyond submission to Israeli positions and interests, whereby partnership will be with all the negotiating parties, not only with Israel as has been the case until now.

It is important that this round succeed in linking what takes place in the negotiating room with the daily realities experienced by Palestinian residents in the occupied territories such as closures, deportations, economic suffering, human rights violations, and disdain for human dignity and attributes.

This criterion alone is used by the residents to assess the success or failure of the peace talks, and it is this criterion which proved that the ninth round did not achieve any progress. Practices and measures have increased rather than decreased. There has been no retreat from the decisions that impeded the negotiating process. The deportees have remained in Marj al-Zuhur camp, and the policy of closure and cordons has become almost permanent.

Is it possible that expectations will be reflected and the unexpected realized?

'Arafat Speech Marks 67th Month of Intifadah

LD1506222593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Address by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat on the 67th month of the intifadah; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. And we wanted to be gracious to those who were depressed in the land, to make them leaders [in faith] and make them heirs, to establish a firm place for them in the land. [Koranic verse] God speaks the truth.

O masses of the valiant popular intifadah; O heroes of the sacred revolution of the stones; O makers of the epic of the courageous resistance and unswerving steadfastness; O our resisting masses in every town, village and camp; O sons of our resisting people in the homeland, in places of exile, and in the diaspora: The decisive days and occasions in our history provide us with an important occasion, an occasion for meditation and study, an occasion to draw lessons, an occasion to look at the future, armed with the knowledge of what we have achieved and its lessons.

Here we are now, 26 years after the Israeli occupation of Jerusalem, holy Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the rest of the occupied Arab territories. Here we are standing—our Arab and Islamic nation is standing, the world is standing—before undeniable facts, facing up to events that are impossible to ignore.

The first of these facts and events is the affirmation of the bankruptcy of the Israeli occupation project. This project is daily recording signs of a fresh decline on its downward road toward its inevitable defeat. The unrestrained practicing of official terrorism and the committing of war crimes against our people is nothing but proof of disarray and an attempt to run forward. This confusion on the Israeli political scene is nothing but a sign of the depth and acuteness of their crisis as they have to face up to the moment of truth they are trying to postpone or run away from. Likewise, the besieging of Jerusalem, holy Jerusalem and the occupied territories, and their isolation from Israel is nothing but an aspect of the realization that the occupation project has gone bankrupt and that its objectives have been defeated.

O brothers, O beloved ones, while the occupation is recording its continuing decline, the Palestinian national project is moving forward, moving forward, moving forward, and recording its continuous steadfastness. After these years of fascist occupation, our brave people are still standing steadfast behind its national banner, and are fiercely fighting on the scene of the resistance and the blessed intifadah for the liberation of our land and to wrench our rights to freedom, independence, and return.

Here are the masses of the revolution, the masses of the PLO, the masses of the intifadah, standing up proudly after all these years of occupation, terrorism, repression, and tyranny, standing up to defy, to confront, and to deal telling blows to occupation. Here are the masses of the intifadah entering with their rare and firm determination a new month in the record of their blessed intifadah. They are continuing to wage the battle of freedom and independence, and to undermine the structure of occupation so as to raise on its ruins the pillars of our national edifice. And here they are continuing to wage the battle with unique bravery, to face up to the wars of crazy killing, starvation, siege, stultification, and slow death.

They are defeating the war of moral attrition waged by occupation against our people, our children, our women, our sanctities, and the Israeli officials are obliged to

admit their historic impasse, that they have been continuing to run away from accepting the necessary conclusions in this field. Here is our people, after these years, after these hot years of the war of attrition waged by Israel against the PLO and against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, here is our people proving that it is difficult to uproot, difficult to be annihilated.

The plan of invasion and those who have carried it have fallen into oblivion, tarnished by the shame of crime and the shame of defeat. Their bragging has declined and their arrogance has been broken in the face of the epic of steadfastness and the miracle, in the longest Arab wars with Israel.

And the PLO, which they wanted to destroy and to eliminate, still stands there, entrenched. It is the moral homeland of our people until its own state is established and until its rights are recovered. It is the home and the framework which brings together, under its ceiling, all the sections, trends, groups, and forces of the Palestinian people.

The masses of our people everywhere are pushing forward with the Intifadah, revolution, and struggle. The indivisible unity of our people has been decided once and for all under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: They want to extinguish God's light with their breath; but God shall maintain His light against the will of the infidels. [Koranic verse]

Sons of our brave people, makers of the blessed Intifadah, your steadfastness, perseverance, and unlimited readiness to give and firmly commit yourselves to our national objectives and constants, combined with a unique ability to defy and struggle even further, are the pillars of the continuing revolution and its inspiration. They give it stability and steadfastness and supply it with the motives and factors of progress, success, and victory.

Thanks to such steadfastness, our people are fighting a battle with experience on all fronts and in all arenas, so that the intifadah can continue and so that our valiant resistance can be stepped up in parallel with the political, diplomatic, information, economic, and scientific struggles. It is a revolution that has material, moral, civilizational, and heritage implications for the struggle of our true and trustworthy people.

By deciding to participate in the peace process which was launched 19 months ago in Madrid, our people, through its institutions, proceeded to occupy its real position, at a decisive historical moment when it was not in any way permissible for us to be absent or excluded, as happened at other historical moments since the beginning of this century. By so doing, our people entered another arena of struggle and chose to wage a battle there, as well as on other fronts.

Despite all the hurdles, the Palestinian participation was a rectification of an historical wrong that had continued for decades and that aimed to prevent us from expressing our demands directly and from defending our rights. The Palestinian participation came to confirm the choices that were adopted by the Palestine National Council at its 1988 session.

And these are the days, O my beloved brothers, proving our people's ability to possess and to activate all the options. Our people are resisting and negotiating at the same time; exactly as the Vietnamese fought and negotiated, the Algerians had fought and negotiated, and as Salah al-Din fought and negotiated. Here are the arms of the knights of the intifadah, the sons of the contemporary Palestinian revolution, supporting our negotiating teams with their jihad and struggle. Our people have proved that they are capable of meeting the challenge on the negotiations front with the same ability, determination, and steadfastness with which they are waging their battle on the intifadah front, resistance, and the remaining other fronts. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Even the Prophet and those of faith who were with him cried: When will come the help of God? Ah! Verily the help of God is always near. [Koranic verse]

O my beloved brothers, from the beginning of the negotiations in Madrid we stressed that we are about to enter a long, bitter, and hard battle that is without doubt much more difficult than the many battles. We reiterate that our resolve to wage our battle and practice our struggle on all fronts continues to stem from our belief in our rights and our determination to extract them and from our knowledge that the one who is present on the political map must also be present on the geographical map. And while we stressed our eagerness to be present and our rejection of any attempt to make our people absent from the peace process, this does not cancel out our rejection of the attempt to empty the peace process of its content, to make it deviate from its objectives, or to cross out its terms of reference. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: And those who strive in our cause, we will certainly guide them to our path; for verily God is with those who do right. [Koranic verse]

O my beloved brothers, my kinfolk, the ninth round of bilateral negotiations has been a bitter experience because it has shown the United States distancing itself from playing an equitable and neutral role dictated by its commitments and assurances made to the Arab sides and by its role as the main sponsor of the whole peace process. This American attitude, which is being translated into pro-Israeli stances, constitutes an undermining of the peace process and an encouragement of the stances of the Israeli Government that violate the terms of reference of the peace process. The American silence vis-a-vis the escalating violation of the human rights of the Palestinians in the Arab land, the isolation of Jerusalem, the expropriation of land, the building of settlements, the siege, the killings, the starvation, and the undermining of our people's economic infra-structure

raise questions on the credibility of the American role and the credibility of the hoisted banners on respecting human rights.

Recently, we raised a number of questions with the U.S. Administration to reaffirm its stance regarding fundamental issues in the peace process. We have also asked it again to fulfill the pledges and commitments it made before our participation in the ninth round, which it did not later fulfill. All that will become clear over the next few days; U.S. behavior and stances over the coming days will leave their imprint on the peace process as a whole and, consequently, on the region—our Middle East region as a whole—which will be pushed into an abyss of instability, disturbances, and eruptions that no one can predict, contain, or control.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Should they intend to deceive thee, God is sufficient for you; He has supported you with his aid and with the believers who followed you. [Koranic verse] O masses of the blessed intifadah, O sons of our people in Jerusalem—the holy Jerusalem, the capital of our independent Palestinian state—O militants at all the positions of the revolution and struggle, in these days we are witnessing an intensification of the economic and financial blockade, wars of killing and starving our people, the destruction of our homes and institutions. The occupation is intensifying its siege on our Holy Jerusalem and on our militant people to choke our will. In these circumstances we say that any one who thinks he can make us kneel down, blackmail us, or make us compromise our rights, make us compromise our rights, make us compromise our rights,[repetition as heard] is deluded, deluded. Any one who thinks he is capable of making us submit is deluded.

We will never kneel down as long as there is a suckling baby among us. We suppress our cries despite the bitter reality imposed on us by some brothers. We refuse to sell out on our principles. We refuse to sell out on our principles. We refuse to sell out on our principles. [repetition as heard] This expresses the noble origins of our people and the sincerity of their commitment, as much as it expresses an ability to endure which has exceeded all limits. Equally, it stresses the need to exercise further social solidarity and mutual fraternal support to overcome these difficult times. We will overcome them with our heads raised in God's name. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: To those against whom war is waged, permission is given [to fight], because they are wronged; surely God is able to help them. They are those who have been expelled from their homes without justification, except for saying Our Lord is Allah. [Koranic verse]

O struggling people of the intifadah; every man, woman, and child of the Palestinian struggle; you, our heroes, cadres of the intifadah, of our popular, revolutionary, political, and trade union institutions; cavaliers of our striking forces and struggling units; our brave heroes in detention and in jails; our valiant wounded, sons of our steadfast people in south Lebanon, in these difficult and decisive days, let us consolidate our steadfastness, continue our true and trusted struggle, make our strikes firmer. Let the earth burn under the feet of the occupiers, and let our flags of freedom and independence fly over the homeland and over the walls, minarets, and churches of Jerusalem, the capital of the state of Palestine.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: God give us patience, firmness, and victory over the infidels. On that day, the believers will rejoice in God's triumph. He grants victory at will. He is dear and merciful. God spoke the truth. Victory is coming and so is the dawn. Revolution till victory!

Your brother, Abu-Ammar ['Arafat].

'Arafat's Symbolic Role, Transformation Analyzed

PM1506141793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jun 93 p 11

[Bakr 'Uwaydah report: "From Gaza to Madrid"]

[Text] In an interview published by the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ yesterday President Yasir 'Arafat said he expects tangible progress to be made in the 10th round of bilateral Arab-Israeli negotiations scheduled to begin in Washington next Tuesday [15 June], "provided I am allowed to run the affairs of the occupied Gaza Strip." He added: "I also need part of the occupied West Bank which I will not specify. It could be in Jericho or somewhere else. I will not allow it to be said that I sold the West Bank in return for the Gaza Strip."

Anyone who reads this is entitled to ask: Is Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] compelled to talk like this, and to an Israeli newspaper?

When we say Abu-'Ammar, we mean "the symbol" on whom the main factions in Palestinian national action agreed even when they agreed to differ over everything else. Is the "symbol" of an issue of the magnitude of the Palestinian issue, which is the "symbol" of the efforts to eliminate the injustice inflicted on the Palestinians—injustice that no other people have ever suffered—compelled to ask the oppressor himself to "allow him to run Gaza" and then ask for "part of the West Bank" so that he would not be accused of "selling the West Bank in return for Gaza?"

No. Abu-'Ammar in his capacity as the "symbol" is not compelled to talk in such a manner to any newspaper. Not to mention a newspaper that still remains—until the Israelis turn to peace and "kindly concede" one-third of the territory in return for two-thirds, and up to now they have not turned to peace, but it is actually the victim who has turned to peace—a pulpit for the aggressor who usurped all Palestinian territory.

If it is said that this statement is addressed to the Israeli "decisionmaker" by the Palestinian "decisionmaker" via an Israeli pulpit with the intention of informing

Israeli public opinion of it, it can also be said that negotiators usually display rigidity in public statements, leaving the task of displaying "flexibility" and making "concessions" to what happens at the negotiating table. Thus Yasir 'Arafat—in his capacity as the "president" who guides the Palestinian delegation and gives the final word on both the strategy or tactics of the Palestinian negotiating position—is supposed to maintain utmost rigidity (of course, within the minimum required for negotiation, that is eliminating the effects of the June 1967 war) in all his public statements and interviews, regardless of the audience.

The intention here is not to object to President Yasir 'Arafat ruling the Gaza Strip and part of the West Bank. In the end, he is the leader of the PLO, which the Palestinians have accepted as their political entity, and its leader is their leader. But a questioned is asked from time to time, especially since the "statements" and "tactics" of the negotiations phase. This question is: What would detract from Abu-'Ammar's standing in the history of Palestinian national action if were to retire as "Abu-'Ammar," who led the "from the river to the sea" dream to what he could achieve? Nothing would. On the contrary, that would boost his standing. This is because "On no soul doth God place a burden greater than it can bear." [Koranic verse] In fact this question does not apply to Abu-'Ammar only. It applies to all leaderships of the Palestinian organizations that operated under this slogan, from Gaza (the 1965 Eilabun operation) to Madrid (the 1991 conference).

Adviser Reportedly Fails To Form Dissident Fatah

NC1506153793 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 Jun 93 p 10

[Text] Amman—Palestinian sources in the Jordanian capital have told AL-SAFIR that Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, made an attempt at dissension from the Fatah Movement in Jordan during recent meetings and contacts with the movement's cadres in Amman.

The sources said that al-Hasan failed to attract any Fatah-Jordan organization leader.

He had met with a number of Fatah Central Committee members, trying to win their support for his political program known as the return to the origins. He also met with Revolutionary Council members.

Having failed to lure Fatah cadres in Jordan, the sources said, al-Hasan returned to his place of residence in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

ALF Warns Kuwait, Allies Against Executions

NC1506175093 Paris AFP in English 1721 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Jerusalem, June 15 (AFP)—An Iraqi-based faction of the PLO Tuesday [15 June] threatened to carry out attacks against Kuwaiti leaders, oil installations and Gulf war allies if 10 Palestinians condemned to death in Kuwait for collaborating with Iraq were executed.

The Arab Liberation Front (ALF) said the governments of the mostly Western U.S.-led coalition that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991 "are legitimate targets for our revenge."

The ALF accused Kuwaiti leaders of "treason" and said Kuwaiti targets could include its palaces and embassies as well as oil wells.

"We warn the symbols of treason among (the Kuwaiti ruling) al- Sabah family, agents of America and Zionism, against any attempt to execute our comrades," its leadership in the Israeli-occupied territories said in a statement to AFP.

"We tell them that we are capable of reaching them where they are."

"The oil wells, which are guarded by dogs faithful to their American and Zionist masters, can be set ablaze more than once and then it will be too late for regrets," the statement added.

Ten Palestinian members of the ALF were condemned to death Saturday by the Kuwaiti security court as part of ongoing trials targeting suspects accused of collaborating with Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait.

Kuwait slammed the Palestine Liberation Organisation's pro-Iraq position during the Gulf war and most of its 400,000 Palestinian population had to leave the emirate at the end of the conflict.

Iraqi troops set Kuwaiti oil wells ablaze before leaving the emirate.

On Monday another PLO faction, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), warned Kuwait against carrying out the sentences.

A total of 20 collaborators of various Arab nationalities have been condemned to death by the Kuwaiti authorities since February 1992.

Twenty-nine people were sentenced to death for collaborating with Iraq after U.S.-led forces liberated Kuwait in February 1991, but their sentences were commuted to life in prison following western criticism of the trials.

PLO Reaction to Kuwaiti Death Sentences Reported

JN1606074493 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2025 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Tunis, 15 Jun (INA)—The PLO has held the United States, the Arab regimes, and the Arab League responsible for the crimes which the rulers imposed on Kuwait commit against Palestinian citizens.

In a comment by the political analyst of the Palestinian News Agency, WAFA, distributed here today, the PLO called for immediate intervention to save the lives of 10 Palestinian citizens who have been sentenced to death by the Kuwaiti authorities.

The PLO urged all international organizations to prevent the ugly crimes against Palestinian citizens in Kuwait, and to work for securing fair trials and international and Arab lawyers for the Palestinians.

The PLO warned the al-Sabah clique against the repercussions of continuing their aggressive plots against the Palestinians and the Palestine question, and said the Palestinians will not remain silent toward these crimes.

Deportees Send Message to Human Rights Conference

JN1506183093 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Excerpt] The militant deportees have urged the UN World Conference on Human Rights, currently meeting in the Austrian capital, Vienna, to use its influence to return them to their homes.

In a message to the conference, the militant deportees said they are facing hardship and imminent danger as a result from their presence in an isolated area, in which military clashes occasionally occur. The deportees also said that the Zionists lay mines in the surrounding areas and that they frequently come under fire from the Zionist and agent guns. [passage omitted]

Paper: Troop Movement Shows Kuwait Is 'U.S. Base'

PM1506152693 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12-13 Jun 93 p 11

[Editorial: "Kuwait, Somalia, and the United States"]

[Text] The United States has decided to move 2,000 of its troops from Kuwait to Somalia in an attempt to control the explosive situation there after the killing of a number of UN soldiers in clashes with Somali forces led by General Aidid.

This is the first time these [UN] forces have faced a real threat since their arrival seven months ago in that country, torn apart by civil war with famine killing half a million of its population.

Many people thought that the situation in Somalia stabilized as soon as the U.S. forces arrived there. We began seeing the tumultuous reception they were given on the television screen. We also saw the humiliating treatment some Somalis received at the hands of heavily armed U.S. troops, one of whom was not even ashamed to place his heavy boots on the head of a militia member right before the television cameras without any respect for the humanity of these people.

The recent clashes have demonstrated that the situation was not stable and that the apparent calm was false, otherwise the United States would not have had to reinforce its troops after having withdrawn most of them at the beginning of this year.

What concerns us above all is not only the stability and security of Somalia but also the way in which the United States reinforced the UN rescue forces which themselves needed rescuing.

The U.S. command sought the assistance of forces deployed in Kuwait and not elsewhere in the world. This shows that Kuwait has become a U.S. base and that the forces deployed there are the rapid deployment forces which Henry Kissinger said were necessary for intervention in areas of conflict and trouble in the region.

In other words, the task of the U.S. forces in Kuwait is not confined to protecting that emirate against any supposed new invasion but also includes intervention in any other Arab state where there may be trouble that could threaten U.S. interests or bring to power a regime unacceptable to the United States.

That painful fact shows the extent that the Kuwaiti rulers conspired with the United States to bring Western bases back to Arab lands, providing Arab funds to cover all their expenses, a generosity that Washington did not plan and none of its administrations ever dreamed of.

The strange thing is that the U.S. forces in Kuwait or anywhere else do not intervene in Bosnia and they avoid any confrontation with the Serbs but do quickly intervene in Somalia against starving people to score a cheap victory against poorly trained and poorly armed groups.

The Kuwaiti Government has lost its independence and its sovereignty and has become a U.S. colony, which is not strange, having announced that it would not abide by the Arab boycott of Israel. We would not be surprised if it exchanged ambassadors and embassies with the Hebrew state at the earliest possible time.

OPEC Affairs

Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister Rejects Production Quota

PM1506142493 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 13 Jun 93 (NARINGSLIV section) p 3

[Report on interview with Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli by Gunilla von Hall in Geneva on 12 June]

[Text] Geneva—Kuwait did not get its way at the OPEC meeting in Geneva and the country's petroleum minister angrily walked out on the other OPEC ministers who had decided to freeze production in the third quarter.

The day after the meeting the Kuwaiti Petroleum Minister 'Ali Ahmad al-Baghli sat on the sofa in his suite at

the Hotel Intercontinental in Geneva and told NARINGSLIV that "Kuwait does not care a hoot about the other OPEC countries; we are going to produce as much oil as we want."

"The other oil ministers have decided to freeze the production ceiling at 23.6 million barrels per day. This is unrealistic and has not a jot of credibility. No one believes this. It is the same production ceiling as the second quarter—which meant that everyone began to overproduce oil," al-Baghli said over a cup of tea on Saturday [12 June] morning.

He said that there is no political will among the OPEC ministers to really follow the production quotas that have been decided. He stated emphatically that Kuwait followed the production quota of 1.6 million barrels per day during the second quarter, which was decided at the Vienna meeting in February. At that meeting, Kuwait was given a promise of a higher production quota in the third quarter on the condition that it kept to the second quarter quota.

"But they broke their promise! We were not given a higher production quota despite the fact that we reduced our oil production by 400,000 barrels a day in the second quarter. We reduced oil production by 20 percent; the others reduced their oil production by only 5 percent. But when I came here, I was told that Kuwait's higher production quota is being postponed. That is why we are abandoning the agreement. I am disappointed and no longer believe their promises!

"If the other countries had followed their production quotas, we would have been able to have a higher quota without the market being affected and the price of oil falling further. Demand is estimated at 24.2 million barrels a day in the third quarter, while the production ceiling has been frozen at 23.6 million barrels per day," al-Baghli said.

He said that Kuwait had been promised a quota that would correspond to the quotas of countries with a similar production capacity. The closest comparison is the United Arab Emirates, which have a production quota of 2.16 million barrels per day. But since Kuwait was not given a higher quota, it will now produce a little more than 2 million barrels per day, an overproduction that al-Baghli believes will "be absorbed by the market so that the price of oil will not be affected appreciably."

"We will increase oil production in a responsible manner and see to it that the increase occurs gradually so that the price of oil does not collapse."

For some time the price of oil has been below OPEC's minimum price of $21 per barrel. On Friday, after the oil ministers' agreement which Kuwait refused to sign, the price of oil fell by a further 36 cents to $18.92 per barrel. This worries the oil ministers because several of them are in great need of funds.

Since the war in the Persian Gulf, Kuwait has been in desperate need of money to reconstruct its oil industry and its economy, al-Baghli said. Of the 1,000 oil wells destroyed during the war, 700 have been reclaimed.

"We have already spent $10 billion on rebuilding the oil industry and need more for expansion and maintenance. The whole of Kuwait had been destroyed by the time the Iraqi troops were driven out of the country. We have built up Kuwait from nothing."

He said that in the years after the Iraqi occupation Kuwait could only produce 700,000 barrels per day. For a while Kuwait—a founder of OPEC—was even forced to import oil.

"But now we have the money for reconstruction—although it is under the ground and we are not allowed to use it because of OPEC's quota system. In Kuwait there is a growing anger with OPEC—in parliament, among people in the street, in the press, in the government.... We are not being fairly treated within OPEC! There is anti-Kuwaiti feeling among the other oil ministers."

Al-Baghli said that if Kuwait is not given a higher production quota the country will continue to go its own way and produce outside the quota system.

But since demand is estimated at 26 million barrels per day, there ought to be room for an increase in production for Kuwait too.

"I have pondered whether Kuwait should not leave OPEC completely, but then there would be chaos. Everyone would begin producing as much as possible; the market would be flooded with oil, and the price of oil would come crashing down to $6 per barrel. OPEC is far from perfect, but it is indispensable for us oil-producing countries—although it needs more political will and credibility," the Kuwaiti petroleum minister said.

Algerian Energy Minister Reviews Current Issues

LD1606021193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Energy Minister Hacene Mefti has stated to APS that OPEC has no option except to hold to the Vienna agreement of February of this year. The decision to hold to the agreement was made this month in Geneva in view of Kuwait's insistence on an increase of 35 percent in its output quota, which would have led to the inevitable collapse of oil prices, according to the energy minister.

Hacene Mefti said OPEC suggested to Kuwait in Geneva to raise its output by 10 percent instead of 35 percent, anticipating a big rise in demand for OPEC oil starting in September of this year.

The energy minister also talked about the long-term strategy committee, of which he and his Venezuelan counterpart, the OPEC secretary general, are members. The committee's task is to prepare a draft paper on the establishment of a flexible body assigned to resolve OPEC's political and economic problems.

Algeria

Laghouat Head of Security, 2 Others Killed

LD1506230393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The security forces today confirmed that three policemen and two civilians were assassinated in Laghouat Governorate [southern Algeria]. According to a communique by the security directorate, the assassinations were carried out last night and this morning when a car carrying the three policemen was trapped. One of them was the head of security in Laghouat. The communique added that the policemen were on a search mission when they were surprised by a hail of bullets from a rooftop. It also said that the armed men were under intensive police investigation.

State Council Receives Second Group of Party Figures

LD1506163793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The Higher State Council [HSC] headed by Mr. Ali Kafi received today at the presidency a second group of party representatives including six political formations. This second group includes representatives of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, the Islamic Society Movement [Hamas], the National Alliance of Independent Democrats, the Democratic Islamic Arab Unity party, the Movement of Democratic Youth, and the Democratic Movement for Nature and Development.

This meeting marks the end of the second phase of the national dialogue, which the HSC began with political forces and formations in the homeland 25 May.

Egypt

Government Working To Resolve Libyan-Western Dispute

NC1206082093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Jun 93 p 5

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Egypt is trying to convince the U.S. Administration and the British Government to open a dialogue with Libya in a bid to resolve the Libyan-Western crisis.

An Egyptian Foreign Ministry official has affirmed that Egyptian contacts with the parties concerned with the crisis are aimed at reaching a compromise between the West's demands and the Libyan position of avoiding any violation of international law or Libyan sovereignty. Egypt is trying to work out a peaceful solution to the crisis before 15 August, the date set for the UN Security Council to revise the sanctions imposed on Libya, the official said.

Egypt had successfully managed to convince the United States and Britain not to submit a draft resolution to the Security Council with the aim of intensifying the sanctions on Libya and imposing a ban on the export of Libyan oil. The United States and Britain are pressuring Libya to force it implement Security Council Resolution 731 and hand over the two Libyans suspected of involvement in the downing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 to stand trial before British or U.S. courts.

Defense Minister, U.S. Commander Discuss Cooperation

NC1306124893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 13 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Jun (MENA)—Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi today received visiting Joseph Hoar, commander of the U.S. Armed Forces Central Command, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting discussed ways to consolidate military cooperation between the two countries and was attended by Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi and U.S. Ambassador Robert Pelletreau.

People's Assembly Concerned Over UN Acts in Somalia

NC1506202593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1843 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—The People's Assembly has declared that the UN forces in Somalia must exercise self-restraint and adhere to the objectives of UN Security Council Resolution 794 in order to spare the lives of the Somali people, who are victims of their leaders' power struggle and their failure to abide by the Addis Ababa resolutions.

Dr. Tulbah 'Uwaydah, chairman of the People's Assembly's Arab Affairs Committee, voiced deep regret over the attacks carried out by U.S. Air Force units, operating within the UN peacekeeping force in Somalia, which constituted a firm response to the killing of 23 Pakistani troops. He noted that many innocent civilians, including women and children, were killed during these attacks.

Dr. 'Uwaydah announced that the Arab Affairs Committee, while adhering to international legality and UN Security Council resolutions, feels that there have been shortcomings in implementing Security Council resolutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the people face tragic conditions. He said that this is entirely out of line with the prompt and violent UN action in Somalia.

'Uwaydah said the committee appreciates the efforts made by Egyptian diplomats regarding the Somali issue and President Husni Mubarak's instructions to them to safeguard the Somali people and persuade the conflicting Somali factions to adhere to the decisions made during the Addis Ababa summit. He noted that these instructions were given despite the acts of sabotage that the

Somali factions have carried out against the Egyptian Embassy, the only embassy that has continued to operate there since the crisis began.

Kamal al-Shadhili, chairman of the National Democratic Party's parliamentary group, said all Egyptians are worried about the recent developments in Somalia, particularly the operations carried out by the U.S. forces operating within the UN peacekeeping force with the aim of restoring law and order in Mogadishu and providing protection and security for the UN forces, which have been charged with maintaining peace and order there.

Al-Shadhili urged the various Somali factions to halt all hostilities and cooperate with the UN forces to extricate the country from its state of chaos and famine, establish security and peace, and enable relief convoys to reach needy areas.

Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, leader of the opposition in the Assembly, and Ahmad Taha, an independent deputy, said that the Egyptian public is dismayed by what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina. They described the situation there, where the Serbs are preventing relief and arms supplies from reaching the Bosnian people, as a genuine UN failure.

Ahmad Taha said the United States is trying to cover up for this failure by its actions in Somalia. He pointed out that the UN forces should have sought to protect the Bosnian Muslims.

Ahmad Taha called for withdrawing the Egyptian forces operating with the UN forces so that they will not turn into a tool in the hands of international piracy.

Paper Blames U.S. Administration for Somalia Events

NC1606142493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2051 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM blames the U.S. Administration for the situation in Somalia, which, it says, seriously erodes the credibility of the United Nations and its ability to confront such developments.

In an editorial in its 16 June issue, the paper says events in Somalia, like those in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Cambodia, illustrate the extent to which political double standards can operate. The paper says the United Nations and Washington initially wanted to hold a dialogue with the Somali warlords, despite their crimes against the Somali people, but the situation changed entirely when the danger approached the UN peacekeeping force. It says events developed until the recent military strike, carried out regardless of the controversy over the efficacy of such "strikes," something demonstrated by the attacks on Iraq and the attempt to avoid directing similar strikes against the Serbs in Bosnia.

AL-AHRAM regards the result as a failure of U.S. policy on the Somali crisis. It points out that Washington did not tackle the most important, most dangerous step toward rescuing Somalia—disarming the warring factions.

Media Comment on Vienna Human Rights Conference

Development Link Viewed

NC1506142493 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "Human Rights and the UN Role in Safeguarding Them"]

[Excerpts] To emphasize the international interest in human rights and to honor the international treaties and conventions on human rights, the UN World Conference on Human Rights is being held in Vienna. Egypt and other countries are participating in the conference, which the UN secretary general also is attending. The conference will end on 25 June.

In his address at the inauguration of the conference, the UN secretary general emphasized the need to respect the right of development and called for providing guarantees that ensure human rights everywhere. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made a statement in which he talked about the relationship between democracy and development as far as human rights are concerned. He noted that democracy aids development, which is an inalienable human right that must not be subjected to political considerations.

Let us ponder the word development, which Foreign Minister Musa and UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali have stressed as necessary for guaranteeing human rights. This leads us to talk about those who act against development, carry out sabotage and destruction, and engage in acts that primarily target stability, which is the principal pillar of development. These groups are not satisfied with dealing blows to sources of revenue and development and go as far as undermining one of the most sacred human rights; that is, the right to live. The crimes they commit lead to bloodletting and death, as demonstrated by the recent terrorist incidents in Egypt at the hands of groups that claim to belong to Islam, while their acts show that they are absolutely alien to it. Conclusive evidence has proven that these groups pay allegiance to a country that has made exporting terrorism a profession, giving itself an unjustified right to defend Islam.

The Iranian revolution guide told his ambassadors last year that Iran is responsible for the entire Islamic world, and the policy of the Iranian rulers, unfortunately, follows this line. These rulers set up centers in some Islamic countries and have managed to recruit groups that, although small in number, are dedicated to serving the interests of those rulers. They have deceived some

youths under the facade of defending Islam and persuaded others to carry out operations that, to say the least, are criminal and constitute acts of treason against the homeland and its people. Reports by Amnesty International repeatedly have indicated that Iran is the primary violator of human rights in the world. Iranian opposition groups operating inside and outside Iran emphasize that since they took over the country, the people who have appointed themselves the defenders of Iran have executed 100,000 Iranians, not to mention the widespread torture in Iranian prisons. All these acts flagrantly violate human rights. [passage omitted]

The Vienna human rights conference faces difficult tasks, since human rights are abused in several areas in the world. It has an obligation, through the United Nations, to ensure that human rights are respected and honored; otherwise, the world will lose confidence in the United Nations in this regard as long as the principles for guaranteeing human rights remain ink on paper. If human rights are flagrantly abused in several areas of the world, there are other areas where human rights are abused behind the facade of various slogans; most importantly, the areas ruled by the brutal mullahs' regime in Tehran.

'Bitter Irony' Seen in Venue

NC1606080293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0616 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR sees "bitter irony" in the fact that the third World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna is being held just a few dozen miles from the scene of the most horrible crime of human rights violation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In today's editorial, the paper wonders what the UN officials did to protect human rights in Bosnia, where all kinds of rights mentioned in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its appendices, notably the right to life, self-determination, security, and safety, are being violated.

The paper holds those who failed to protect and defend the Bosnian souls responsible for the blood that is being shed every day and every hour on Bosnian territory.

Their responsibility, the paper says, is no less than that of the Serb butchers who, thanks to the negative attitude of the Security Council and the United Nations, are working to realize their wicked objectives and totally inhuman crimes.

Three Planeloads of Aid Airlifted to Eritrea

NC1506182593 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Three planeloads of Egyptian aid to Eritrea was airlifted to Asmera today from Cairo. The Egyptian ambassador to Eritrea has said that the assistance President Mubarak ordered for the Eritrean people is a symbol of the fraternity and amity between the Egyptian president, government, and people and the Eritrean president, government, and people. It is part of the continuing bilateral cooperation directed by the two countries' governments.

Authorities Arrest 10 Muslim Brotherhood Members

NC1106164793 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Jun 93 p 14

[Excerpt] The security services have arrested 10 Muslim Brotherhood members for membership in an illegal undercover organization. Leaflets inciting acts of sabotage and breach of order and security were found in their homes.

An AL-AHRAM correspondent learned that the detained people are members of the organization known as Salsabil, which was uncovered by security agencies about 18 months ago. The members of the new group live in several governorates. [passage omitted]

New Efforts To Improve Domestic Security Reported

Ministry To Modernize Police Force

NC1506073993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 15 Jun 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-AHRAM notes that the Interior Ministry is implementing a new plan to revitalize the police service. Technical equipment, weapons, and bomb-detection devices will be modernized. The ministry is buying new hardware from Egyptian military factories, the Arab Industrialization Organization, Europe, and the United States to enhance the capabilities of the police force.

Cairo, Governorates Implement New Plan

NC1406061993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0335 GMT 14 Jun 93

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-AKHBAR reports a new security plan to protect important streets, main squares, and essential establishments in Greater Cairo and governorate capitals is in effect. Armed regular troops and detectives equipped with radios linked with the main operations rooms in the security directorates are involved in the new plan. Also involved are radio-equipped mobile patrols and roadblocks. This will facilitate free movement and help direct the forces to confront any criminal attacks against people or property or operations aimed at shaking stability and security in the country.

Arrests of 36 Sudanese, 60 Palestinians Reported

NC1206141493 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jun 93 pp 1, 9

[Report by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah]

[Excerpt] Egyptian security bodies have launched a campaign of arrests among Sudanese students in Egyptian universities and another one among Palestinians who fled across the Egyptian border from the [Israeli] occupation forces chasing them.

On 25 and 26 May, the security forces arrested 36 Sudanese students in al-Minya University after raiding the students' rooms and wrecking furniture. This prevented the students from completing their examinations. No specific charges have been brought against them and the consular section in the Sudanese Embassy has not been allowed to meet them.

Over 60 Palestinians were also arrested (most of them from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad and three from Fatah) after they fled to Egypt to escape the Zionist occupation forces.

(AL-SHA'B) has learned that some of these Sudanese and Palestinians were added to the lists of those charged in some terrorist cases to give credence to the allegation that foreign circles—the Islamists in Sudan and the occupied territories and Iran—finance the violent acts in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Sidqi on Public Sector Pay Rise, Price Control

NC1506083093 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi addressed a meeting of the People's Assembly Manpower Committee yesterday chaired by 'Abd-al-Aziz Mustafa. Dr. Sidqi announced it will cost 1.2 billion Egyptian pounds to finance the new social allowance, which will increase government employees' pay by 10 percent of the basic salary from 30 June. He also said real wages are expected to grow by 13.5 percent. The committee ratified a law increasing government employees' pay and pensioners' allowances by 10 percent.

Dr. Sidqi said the government will consult with businessmen to urge them to apply the new wage increase in the private sector.

He said that excepting sugar cane and cotton, the prices of which will be deregulated in October, the government does not regulate agricultural product prices. He said the government regulates the price of pharmaceuticals because of their special importance.

Report Warns Against Zionist Control of Economy

NC1206125193 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 9 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] An report on economic security has warned against Israel's domination of the Egyptian economy in accordance with a new Zionist scheme to impose Israeli control on all economic activity in Egypt.

Presented to Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi in his capacity as minister of public business, the report revealed that investors and figures associated with wor'd Zionism are trying to work their way into the Egyptian economy under cover. Israeli investors have submitted offers to buy public business companies offered for sale in accordance with the privatization program extending to 1996. The program involves 25 public sector companies every year.

The report called for providing favorable conditions for Egyptian investors and businessman both inside and outside the country, and giving them priority in buying the offered properties.

It warned against offering stratgeic national projects for sale to individuals and investors, regardless of the motives for that sale.

Libya

Iran's Besharati Delivers Message to al-Qadhdhafi

LD1306081193 Tehran IRNA in English 0722 GMT 13 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 13, IRNA—First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, currently in Tripoli, handed over a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Libyan leader Colonel Mu'amar al-Qadhdhafi Saturday [12 June].

The two also discussed bilateral relations and issues related to the Islamic world, a Foreign Ministry report said here Sunday.

Al-Qadhdhafi praised the Islamic revolution in Iran and its positive impacts on the Islamic world saying it was a great service to Islam and the world Muslims.

The Libyan leader criticized the international circles for being inattentive towards the Serbs crimes against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina and for interference in Somalia.

Referring to the nine rounds of so-called Middle East peace talks between Arabs and Israel, Besharati said the talks were fruitless for the Palestinian nation but beneficial for the Al-Qods [Jerusalem] occupying regime encouraging it to further suppress Palestinian Muslims.

The Iranian official arrived in Tripoli at the last leg of his five-nation tour which took him to Syria, Senegal, Tunisia and Morocco as well.

Niger President, Delegation Visit for Talks

Al-Qadhdhafi Hosts Banquet

LD1506163193 Tripoli JANA in English 1418 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Benghazi, al-Sayf [June] 15, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution last night hosted a dinner banquet in honor of President Mahamane Ousmane of the Republic of Niger and his accompanying delegation.

Several members of the Secretariats of the General People's Congress and a number of secretaries of the Basic People's Committees in Benghazi were present at the banquet.

Leaders Visit Dam in Suluq

LD1506164793 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Benghazi, al-Sayf [June] 15, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution and Mahamane Ousmane of the Republic of Niger visited the 'Umar al Mukhtar dam in Suluq where President Mahamane Ousmane received detailed explanations on the completed phases of the great man-made river project. This 20th century project covers 4,000 kms.

The leader and the president also attended the spectacular display of the pipes used in the great man-made river project. Each 72 tonne pipe was transported from a world-leading pipe factory on a single truck.

The masses of the Basic People's Congresses also attended the display and mingled with the leader of the revolution on his arrival at the dam.

The masses confirmed their admiration and pride at this great historic achievement which was realised by the great al-Fatih Revolution. The masses called for the long life of the great al-Fatih revolution and its leader, the creator of the era of the masses. They confirmed their eternal commitment to people's authority and their constant readiness to defend the historic achievements realised by the great al-Fatih revolution.

Officials Discuss Cooperation

LD1506165793 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Benghazi, al-Sayf [June] 15, JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Arab Libyan Nigeran talks began yesterday in Benghazi with the participation of a number of secretaries of the General People's Committees and several Nigeran ministers in addition to experts and technicians from both countries.

Cooperation in the cultural, economic, scientific and technical fields was discussed. The session also exchanged points of view on a number of Arab, African and international issues of joint interest.

Ousmane Says Visit Fruitful

LD1506191693 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 15 Jun (JANA)—[Passage omitted] President Mohamane Ousmane made a statement to JANA in which he said:

At the end of my friendly working visit, I thank you. I would also like to seize this opportunity to thank the brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah for the hospitality and warm welcome I and my accompanying delegation enjoyed.

We took advantage of our presence here to discuss many African and international issues of common interest. The views of the brother leader during the working sessions of the two delegations, in particular regarding bilateral relations, agreed with mine. We reached agreement on stimulating and consolidating the work of the Libyan Arab-Niger joint committee, in the interest of the two fraternal people.

This visit, whose aim was to increase cooperation between the two fraternal countries, has been extremely fruitful.

Communique Issued on Talks

LD1606031893 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 15 Jun 93

["Text" of joint Libyan-Niger communique issued in Banghazi on 15 June at the conclusion of a visit by Niger President Mohamane Ousmane to Libya]

[Text] At the invitation of the brother leader of the great al- Fatih revolution, His Excellency Mohamane Ousmane, president of the sister Republic of Niger, accompanied by an important delegation, paid a visit of work and friendship to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in the period 23-25 al-Hijjah 1402, corresponding to 13-15 June 1993. The honored guest and the accompanying delegation enjoyed a warm official and popular welcome expressing the depth of the historical relations between the two fraternal peoples and the noble bonds that epitomize their belonging to the same civilization.

The brother leader of the great al-Fatih revolution congratulated his brother Niger President Mohamane Ousmane on the trust placed in him by the people of Niger. During this visit, intensive bilateral negotiations took place between Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, brother leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, and President Mohamane Ousmane in an atmosphere of cordiality and fraternity, which dealt with bilateral relations and the means for their development, and with African and international issues of common interest. The guest president got acquainted with the stages of the building of the great man-made river. The brother leader also informed him of the civil achievements of the great al-Fatih

revolution in the economic, cultural, and social fields, and in particular the actual exercise of people's authority, which has achieved the Libyan Arab people's sovereignty over all its resources through the basic people's congresses and people's committees.

The guest informed the brother leader of the political developments in Niger and of the serious policies and programs undertaken by his government to enable the people of Niger to overcome the difficulties facing his country.

Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, brother leader of the great al-Fatih revolution, and Niger President Mohamane Ousmane stressed their attachment to the principles and charters of the OAU and the United Nations. Talks were also held between the Libyan Arab and Niger sides that dealt with economic, cultural, and social relations.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the positive development of these relations, and stressed the importance of cooperation between the two countries in the economic, cultural, scientific, and technical fields with a view to achieving integration in the domains of agriculture, industry, natural resources, minerals, and infrastructure, especially concerning the laying down of joint programs to promote trade exchanges, encouraging investment, setting up joint industrial and agricultural projects, taking measures likely to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and work, engaging in economic activity and property ownership of the citizens of the two countries in each of them, encouraging the movement of capital, promoting trade exchange of national goods, encouraging natural and corporate persons in the two countries, as well as companies and entreprises, to set up agricultural and industrial projects.

The two sides reiterated their determination to carry out all the agreements signed between the two countries, especially the agreement on security cooperation signed on 23 December 1990. In order to realize this, the two sides agreed on the folowing: reinvigorating and expanding the joint cooperation committee, setting up sectorial subcommittees in charge of preparing for the meetings of the committee, and creating a technical committee charged with the implementation of the decisions taken by the joint committee. The two sides pledged to do all they can to strengthen bilateral relations in various fields.

Concerning the Lockerbie problem, the Niger side appreciates the wisdom and flexibility with which the Great Jamahiriyah is tackling this question, as well as the efforts it has exerted, and it urges all sides to engage in dialogue.

The two sides call for the reactivation of the conference of the states bordering the Sahara as an ideal framework for regional cooperation, a matter that in the future would allow for an integration between the Western Africa Economic Group and the Arab Maghreb Union.

At the end of the visit, President Mahamane Ousmane expressed his great thanks and appreciation for brother Col. Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, leader of the al-Fatih revolution, and for the great Arab Libyan people for the hospitality and warm fraternal welcome accorded to him and the delegation accompanying him.

President Mahamane Ousmane extended an invitation to brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the al-Fatih revolution, to visit the Republic of Niger. He accepted the invitation, the date of which will be established later.

Issued in Banghazi on 25 al-Hijjah 1402, corresponding to 15 June 1993

Ousmane Departs

LD1506170793 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Niger President Mahamane Ousemane left the Great Jamahiriyah today at the end of a several-day visit. President Mahamane Ousemane was accorded an official departure ceremony. He was seen off by Colonel 'Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity, and by some officers of the Armed People. [passage omitted]

Sudan

UN Humanitarian Affairs Envoy's Visit Suspended

EA1606111593 Khartoum SUNA in English 1635 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Khartoum, 15 June (SUNA)—Foreign Minister Dr. Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih has announced that the arrival of the UN's envoy for humanitarian affairs is suspended until the matter between the Sudanese Government and the office of the UN's secretary general is settled. Dr. Abu Salih has stated in Foreign Ministry regular forum Monday [14 June] that the Sudan has received a brief answer from the office of the UN's secretary general in response to questions raised by the Sudan Government.

It is worth noting that the Sudan Government is reserved on the appointment of the UN's envoy for the humanitarian affairs in the Sudan. The Sudan Government said that there were no prior consultations in this matter between the Sudan and UN's secretary general.

Dr. Abu Salih said that the Sudan Government is doubting the appointment of the UN's envoy and it may be a step for the political work to intervene in the state's affairs. He added that there is no clear definition on the task and authority of the UN's envoy in the humanitarian field.

Dr. Abu Salih said that the Sudan sent again to the office of UN's secretary general the message saying that the answer which [Sudan] received from the UN's office is

not adequate to answer the questions which [were] already raised by the Sudan in this regard. The Sudanese Foreign Ministry was informed about the delay of UN's envoy which is scheduled for Tuesday 15th June, said Abu Salih.

Meanwhile, Dr. Abu Salih has announced the arrival of a delegation from the European Community on 21st June in a two-day visit to the country to acquaint themselves on the humanitarian situation as well as in the relief field. Dr. Abu Salih has stated that the Sudan has received a note from the meeting of the humanitarian ministers for the technical cooperation of the European countries. The note hailed the ceasefire between the Sudan Government and outlaws' movement. The note also said there is malnutrition in the Sudan, particularly the south. The note appealed to the Sudan to receive a delegation comprising of representatives of the European Community, led by Denmark, to consult on the aid in this regard.

Regarding the ambassador of U.S.' motion on disarmed areas in the south, Abu Salih said that the triangle which is determined to be as a disarmed place is already evacuated and the citizens moved to the secure areas and to that one under the government control such as Malakal and Bor towns, southern Sudan.

Al-Bashir Planning To Make 'Large-Scale Changes'

PM1606105093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir by 'Umar Muhammad al-Hasan in Khartoum "yesterday"]

[Text] Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir has confirmed that he is preparing to make large-scale changes in his government's structures "within the framework of the constitutional development of government and broadening the base of participation, but not in the sense of reconciliation or establishing parties and sharing the cake of power."

In an interview conducted with him by AL-HAYAH yesterday al-Bashir said that his government will soon allow the publication of independent newspapers after the endorsement of the press and publications law in the Transitional National Assembly (parliament). This is in the context of the Council of Ministers' approval of the law last month. Al-Bashir renewed Khartoum's refusal to cooperate with the UN special envoy entrusted with the relief work file in southern Sudan. He accused Egypt of sending military reinforcements to the Wadi Halfa area. He criticized the international units' use of force in Mogadishu, saying that "hope cannot be restored by ammunition and safe areas."

Al-Bashir added that government changes in Khartoum will be announced in stages both before and after the celebrations marking the fourth anniversary of his assumption of power on 30 June. He announced that his government will not cooperate with the special envoy appointed by the United Nations recently for relief operations affairs in southern Sudan. "However, that does not mean our noncooperation with the United Nations, especially as it acted as coordinator between us and the rebels during all the plans implemented in the relief work field in southern Sudan."

He went on: "We do not object to the existence of a coordinator for relief operations. But we cast doubt on the way in which the envoy was appointed without consulting with us over this important matter. We also cast doubt on the visits with which the envoy began his mission, which included Nigeria and neighboring states, and on what is being reported by the media about this mission." He revealed that his government has received a reply from the United Nations to a message which it had sent dealing with this issue. He said that the reply "was insufficient, which is why we still maintain our view, namely not to have dealings or cooperate with the envoy."

Al-Bashir announced that his government is ready for the third round of negotiations in Abuja with the "main wing" of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army led by Colonel John Garang, scheduled to be held on 19 June. However, he pointed out that contacts are being made with the Nigerian Government "although we appreciate the conditions in which the presidential elections in Nigeria are being held. It is an event preoccupying all the state's apparatuses. We are ready for any date to be fixed."

On the negotiations with the "united factions" (the Riek Mashar and William Noun group) held in Nairobi recently, he said that there was nothing new and that his government is assessing the agreement signed in Nairobi and considering the next step with these factions.

Furthermore, al-Bashir emphasized that he has not yet decided on the size of the delegation which will represent Sudan at the African summit scheduled to be held in Cairo. His apparatuses are studying the matter through contacts with the African states. He added that Egypt "has repeated the scenario it implemented in Hala'ib in the Wadi Halfa bulge area, as the Egyptian forces present there since former President Ja'far Numayri's era have been reinforced. They were placed there on the pretext of protecting the High Dam. We have noticed that these forces have in the recent period been continually reinforced."

On the situation in Somalia, al-Bashir said that his government "does not reject UN intervention if the aim is to rescue Somali citizens. But the battles taking place now on such a scale in the populated city of Mogadishu, where big losses in lives are inevitable, cause Somali citizens to prefer to die of starvation rather than dying in the way which we saw via the media. Hope cannot be restored through ammunition and safe areas."

He described Sudan's relations with Iran and Libya as "normal and proceeding according to what is planned

for them. And we do not demand a return for our relations with the other states." He said: "The Western media portrayed the relationship between Sudan and Iran as though it was strategic, designed for conspiracy and spreading fundamentalist Islam. But with the passage of time we made it clear that these are normal relations not conditional on the inclusion of military bases, terrorist camps, trainers, and Iranian military ships, since it became clear that all this was merely designed to target Sudan, and the media themselves were persuaded that these accusations were untrue."

Economic Liberalization To Continue

EA1606103093 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Bashir has said the liberalization policy is the only way to ensure a durable reform of the Sudanese economy. His excellency said in an interview with the Sudanese magazine "AL-MUSTAQBAL" that the Islamic orientation adopted by Sudan has made numerous countries in the West declare their hostility against this cultural orientation. He emphasized that Sudan will adhere to its Islamic option. He said that Sudan wishes to establish good relations with all states.

Concerning the political system, he said that the next step will be reflected in the establishment of sectoral and state congresses. He pointed out that studies are currently in progress in regard to elections. He said that the elections law will bring to prominence the real leaders of the Sudanese masses. He expressed his hope that a new constitution for the country will be drafted.

Minister Warns Egypt Over Hala'ib

NC1506192193 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 11 Jun 93 pp 1, 11

[Report by Sami Kulayb in Paris]

[Excerpts] Minister Ghazi Salah-al-Din, secretary of political relations at the Sudanese Presidency, has accused the Sudanese opposition of holding contacts with Israel. He told AL-SAFIR yesterday that Israel's relations with some Sudanese are not confined to the southern rebels, but have recently extended to northern citizens who are members of the opposition abroad.

Salah-al-Din hinted that Egyptians in Sudan will be harmed [ta'arrud] if the problem over Hala'ib is not solved. He accused Egypt, Algeria, and Tunisia of forming a new alliance against Sudan and Iran.

The minister said he is visiting Paris as part of a European tour to explain the facts of the situation in Sudan and to urge Western countries to deal positively with the status quo "because the continuation of their onslaught against Khartoum may lead to undesirable results. We will convey our belief that it is possible to deal with Sudan and that there is no need for this crusader campaign against the country." [passage omitted]

The Sudanese minister discussed Western intervention in southern Sudan and information about possible military action there similar to that taken in Somalia. When he tried to play down the issue, we asked if his optimism was based on specific information. He replied: "Yes. Our views are based on contacts, assessments, and predictions. Several sessions were held at the U.S. Congress, and the majority of views saw such intervention as futile, not out of concern about Sudan, but out of belief that such intervention would have dire consequences, especially since President Bill Clinton's new administration, unlike the administration of former President Bush, is unwilling to engage in operations abroad. Moreover, the geographic nature of the region, the logistics difficulties, and the spread of many diseases do not allow for such an operation."

Salah-al-Din referred to what he termed an Egyptian-Tunisian- Algerian alliance against Sudan and Iran, saying: "The available information, as well as statements by officials—especially Egyptians; the brothers in Algeria and Tunisia remain committed to ethical principles when they talk about Sudan—prove that this alliance exists, and this recently has become more obvious, especially following the withdrawal of the Algerian ambassador from Khartoum without any direct reason. The Algerians are still talking about Sudanese support for the Islamic Salvation Front, but in our meetings with them, they failed to prove it. All interrogations of Islamists in Algeria failed to prove they received training in Sudan. Those Islamists always say that they received training either in Afghanistan or Peshawar. I wonder how an Algerian can come directly to Sudan from Algeria. Are there joint borders between the two countries? Is it not easier for him to go through Europe? This and other things emphasize that there is an alliance among the three countries at the instruction of Egypt." [passage omitted]

Despite the importance of all the issues discussed by the Sudanese official, he elaborated on the serious situation regarding relations with Egypt in light of the dispute over the border triangle of Hala'ib. He said: "Given the current Egyptian conduct, I do not see any room for a solution right now. It is they who reject negotiations over Hala'ib. When a joint committee on Hala'ib was established, a security subcommittee emanated from it. We said that the problem is basically political, but that it contains security implications because the Egyptian Army invaded Hala'ib, is now occupying the region, and killed two of our soldiers last year."

He added: "We hope the Egyptian president will not deceive the people by saying he does not want to fight Sudan. When Hala'ib was occupied, we asked and begged our Egyptian brothers for a security subcommittee meeting. Although we agreed not to escalate the situation, they procrastinated and finally refused to hold the meeting, proposing a meeting of the political committee instead. When this committee meets, they bring professors of history to discuss the pharaohs, the 25th family, and how Hala'ib was at that time. In other words,

they raise issues that have nothing to do with reality. We are talking about killings and about a process to Egyptianize the region."

The Sudanese official added: "Therefore, when we became certain that the Egyptians had no intention of finding a solution, we began the counterattack, and we will continue with it. We told them that if they deny constants and principles, we will do the same. The first thing we will begin with is the Egyptian presence in Sudan. But they did not take these warnings seriously because no previous Sudanese government had dared to touch the Egyptian presence in Sudan. Sudan may at the least grow unsympathetic toward Egypt's interests in the Nile waters or in international forums."

Egypt Seeks Meeting on Hala'ib, Other Issues

EA1606111193 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Khartoum, 15 Jun (SUNA)—The Sudanese Government has received a message from the Egyptian Government, in which it demanded convention of a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries to discuss the suspended issues between the two countries, particularly Hala'ib.

The announcement was made by Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih at the Foreign Ministry regular forum here Tuesday [15 June]. He pointed out that the request came in response to Sudan's desire that calls on Egypt to move positively to resolve Hala'ib issue in a bilateral context away from the next African summit [in] Cairo. He said that the Sudan had cabled the Egyptian Government expressing its thanks for these initiatives and that an invitation foreign minister to visit the Sudan. [sentence as received]

On the detained Sudanese students issue in Egypt, Dr Abu Salih expressed regret for this matter and urged the Egyptian Government to allow the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo to meet the detained students to [get] acquainted with their health situation. The Sudan does not accept the Egyptian authorities' rejection to the Sudan's embassy's [request] to meet the detained students in the Egyptian prisons.

Kuwait

Sources Cited on Possible Rapprochement With Yemen

JN1506104593 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 7 Jun 93 p 1

["Special to the ARAB TIMES" by Sa'ud al-Farhan]

[Text] Kuwait City, June 6: Highly placed government sources said that the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers studied at its weekly session on Sunday the statements made by the Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah.

"The statements were studied with great attention and concern and received with appreciation" said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. The sources predicted a major shift in Kuwait's policy towards a number of Arab countries which sided with Iraq during the invasion adding that a resumption of normal ties with Yemen is not too far away.

Basindwah told the ARAB TIMES on Thursday Yemen wants to mend its damaged relations with Kuwait and the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states and that it was ready for reconciliation.

"My topmost priority is to remove the flaws in Yemen's relations with Kuwait and the GCC states. It's time this summer cloud disappeared" he said.

The Yemeni foreign minister also denied that Yemen was siding with Iraq. "We have never supported Iraq nor stood against Kuwait or the GCC states." He added that Yemen's position was misunderstood during the Gulf war. Basindwah also revealed that he was appointed in his post because of his strong relations with Kuwaiti intellectuals and politicians. He praised HH [his Highness] Amir, HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister and the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister. "I have maintained strong relations with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad" he said.

The Kuwait sources said that Kuwait is about to adopt a more positive attitude towards a number of Arab countries that sided with Iraq. "There is an official Kuwaiti attitude to bridge the gap with a number of these Arab countries which will be heralded in the first step with a visit by the Tunisian Foreign Minister to Kuwait in the coming few days" said the sources.

Kuwait's official policy has been constant that any reconciliation with Arab countries that sided [with] Iraq must be preceded with an open apology for their wrong position taken against Kuwait during the occupation. Many Kuwaiti officials, including Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, have insisted that these Arab countries must express apology and regret for the grave mistake they committed.

A poll conducted by the ARAB TIMES and published on Saturday showed that almost half the Kuwaitis questioned approved a reconciliation with these Arab countries minus PLO and Jordan. Forty three percent approved such reconciliation while 36.5 percent rejected and the rest said they don't know.

The Kuwaiti sources revealed that this summer will witness hectic diplomatic activities in the direction of Arab reconciliation in general and with Yemen in particular. "The diplomatic drive is likely to achieve a much improved relations with Yemen and might end in restoring normal relations like the ones existing between Yemen and the remaining GCC member states" the sources said.

In a related development, the sources said that the Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah is visiting the GCC states in a tour aimed at discussing several issues and mainly Arab reconciliation.

Reconciliation Offer Positively Received

JN1506120593 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 12 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

["Special to the ARAB TIMES" by Mahboub al-Abdallah]

[Text] Kuwait City, June 11—Kuwait said it was ready to respond with open mind to any positive development concerning reconciliation with Arab countries that sided with Iraq.

"In politics, there are no static positions, Kuwait will not be held hostage to any previous position. We are ready to respond with any positive position" said Undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin in an exclusive interview.

Al-Shahin was commenting on the recent developments in the attempts to achieve reconciliation among Arab countries especially between Arab countries that sided with Iraq during the invasion and the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states in general and Kuwait in particular.

Al-Shahin insisted that Kuwait is adopting an open-mind policy towards Arab reconciliatory efforts and is ready to deal with developments. "We are not living in vacuum. We are living a fast-moving situation. Efforts that are being exerted by Kuwait and those by other parties will convert into new positions. If we remain static, nothing will get changed" he said.

He termed as successful the diplomatic drive Kuwait has been exerting in the past few months. On the other hand, there is perhaps a process of reassessment in positions adopted during the invasion. "For example, we can see that many of the foreign ministers of countries which shamelessly supported Iraq, have now been changed. Those who replaced them have started giving positive signals and Kuwait will respond positively with developments" al-Shahin said.

Yemen's new foreign minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah said on June 3 that his country never supported Iraq and was interested in restoring ties with Kuwait and GCC states. The statements, published in the ARAB TIMES, were positively received by Kuwait and foreign ministers of both countries are scheduled to meet in Vienna on Monday.

"Kuwait is interested in establishing excellent relations with all without any exception. Those who decided to take an enemy attitude should mend their positions to be in the right place. Kuwait is dealing with open mind and heart, but it's others who must correct their positions. This is what is needed under the prevailing circumstances in the Arab world".

Responding to a question on Kuwait's attitude towards efforts being made by Arab League Secretary-General, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, he insisted Kuwait was the first Arab country to propose the establishment of an Arab system based on respect of sovereignly and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The system Kuwait has been hoping for is the one capable of preventing aggression and expansion of one Arab country against another.

Al-Shahin praised 'Abd-al-Majid's reconciliatory efforts saying he was going in the right direction. "But the state of affairs in the Arab world requires a great deal of patience and work."

He said he is pleased by the fact that Arab countries which sided with Iraq have now started realizing their mistake. "Those who have been tempted by that backward regime (Iraq) have now started revising their positions. Such an attitude must be encouraged", he said. He wished the Arab nation will be "rid of some leaders" who have blocked its progress.

Al-Shahin said Kuwait welcomes the UN Security Council resolution 833 which supported demarcation of borders with Iraq. "The resolution was unanimously passed under Chapter seven which adds importance to it". He denied Iraqi allegations that the UN resolution deprives Iraq of access to the sea. "The resolution has guaranteed freedom of navigation in the waters between the two countries. Khawr 'Abdallah has been divided and Khawr al-Zubayr has been completely given to Iraq which now has a coastal line of about 70 kilometers excluding Shatt al-'Arab waterway", he said.

Al-Shahin criticized claims and rumours being circulated by the Iraqi and Jordanian media about the demarcation of borders between Kuwait and Iraq. "The Iraqi regime should have spent the huge funds on developing ports rather than manufacturing nuclear weapons."

Asked about the UN troops to stand guard on the borders between Kuwait and Iraq, al-Shahin said that part of the troops is already in position. More troops are on the way. They will be coming from a number of friendly countries. Some troops will be arriving from Greece and we expect more to arrive from Bangladesh. Al-Shahin added that the UN troops present now contain soldiers from the five permanent members of the Security council, which gives these troops an added significance.

Responding on a question about Kuwait easing conditions of Arab boycott of Israel, al-Shahin insisted that Kuwait is on top of Arab countries in complying with Arab League decisions. "All I can say is that Kuwait is committed to these decisions exactly in the same way our Palestinian brothers are doing", he stressed.

First Official Meeting Set

PM1506131393 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah report: "Meeting To Be Held Monday In Vienna Between Yemeni and Kuwaiti Foreign Ministers"]

[Text] Sanaa, Aden, AL-HAYAH—Authoritative sources at the Yemeni Foreign Ministry yesterday said that an important development has occurred in Yemeni-Gulf relations, and that the first official direct meeting between Yemen and Kuwait will be held next Monday [14 June] in the Austrian capital, Vienna.

The sources pointed out that the meeting will be between new Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister. They added that the meeting between the two ministers comes after the statements made by Minister Basindwah following his appointment on 30 May, in which he said that Yemen is not with Iraq, nor is it hostile to Kuwait. These statements aroused a mood of satisfaction among Kuwaiti officials and paved the way for the the Vienna meeting.

Political sources said that Basindwah's statements provoked an Iraqi protest. Relations between Sanaa and Baghdad witnessed a state of deadlock for a long time and were extricated from this state only by a visit to Sanaa two months ago by Barzan al-Tikriti, half brother of President Saddam Husayn.

It was noted yesterday that a Kuwaiti media delegation headed by Ahmad al-Jarallah, chief editor of the newspaper AL-SIYASAH, is visiting Sanaa in a step which observers believe is designed to prepare for opening channels and returning matters to normal between Yemen and Kuwait after a boycott that began in August 1990 following the Iraqi forces' invasion of Kuwait. President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih yesterday held a protracted meeting with AL-SIYASAH's chief editor and gave him an interview in which he reviewed the development of events in the Iraqi invasion period. The interview included an explanation of the Yemeni view during these events.

The Aden-based newspaper AL-AYYAM published the day before yesterday statements made by Prime Minister

Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas in which he said: "We always believe that restoring relations with our brothers in the Arabian peninsula is a must. We are working to restore these relations not only to their previous status, but to a better status. This is because we all live on this good land (the Arabian peninsula) and are bound by bonds of brotherhood and religion."

Talk of Ties With Pro-Iraq States Termed Premature

LD1506162193 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 15 Jun, (KUNA)—The chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly, Mr. Ahmad al-Sa'dun, has stressed that it was premature to speak about restoration of relations with Jordan, the PLO, and the Yemeni and Sudanese regimes, because the support they have extended to the Iraqi regime was beyond description.

In an interview with the Saudi weekly AL-YAMAMA, to be published tomorrow, he says that cooperation with any future Iraqi regime will depend on the extent of its proving that it is different from the previous regimes, which did not conceal their illegitimate claims to Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly denied that Kuwait has abandoned its pan-Arab position despite the positions chosen by some Arab regimes that backed the Iraqi aggression, and he pointed out that no one wanted differences to continue in the Arab nation. Mr. al-Sa'dun expressed the hope that a new Iraqi regime would come whose attitude to Kuwait would be different from that of previous regimes, and he said that the Iraqis' objective was not just Kuwait but the entire region. [passage omitted]

Consultation With Allies Necessary

LD1506183893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1712 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 15 Jun (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah said in an interview with a Saudi newspaper published today that Kuwait will not restore its relations with any country which stood against it during the Iraqi occupation "before consulting with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the other countries which sided with Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation."

The Kuwaiti minister's statement came in a reply to a question by the newspaper AL-MADINAH about whether Kuwait intends to restore relations with the countries which supported the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He said: ..."The mass media has given the issue a larger size than it deserves."

In this respect, he pointed to statements by the new Yemeni foreign minister concerning Yemen's regret for the stance it took in support of Iraq or against Kuwait. Shaykh Sa'ud said "Kuwait understands the import of these issues."

In a reply to a question about the new orientation and strategy by which the Kuwaiti press is operating after the crisis, the Kuwaiti information minister said "the Kuwaiti press is approaching a new era under future modifications to the publications law." [passage omitted]

Iraqi Kurd Leader Discusses Regional Issues

LD1506115393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Kuwait, 15 Jun (KUNA)— Jalal Talbani, leader of the Iraqi opposition Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, in a press statement released here today said that there was no justification for the meeting among between the foreign ministers of Syria, Turkey, and Iran.

Talbani explained in a statement to the Kuwaiti AL-WATAN that Syria, Turkey, and Iran are countries with opposing policies and attitudes. They are not united on anything except on one point, namely, "to stop the emergence of a separate Kurdish entity."

However, he praised the relationship of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan with the Syrian leadership, describing it as "excellent." He outlined the current visit he has been paying to Syria, which comes within the framework of strengthening the fraternal and militant relations between the two countries as well as discussing the question of unifying the Iraqi opposition. During his visit to Syria he will meet with representatives of the patriotic democratic movement and with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, and mobilize efforts for toppling the regime of Saddam Husayn.

Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim confirmed in a statement to KUNA in Damascus yesterday that the opposition will shortly announce a unified strategy centered on regional and international factors to overthrow the regime in power in Iraq.

Concerning his recent visit to Washington, Talbani praised the stand of the new U.S. Administration. He confirmed that this stand rejects the existence of the Saddam Husayn regime and it supports the end of this dictatorial regime which should be replaced by a democratic one.

He said that the talks with the U.S. Administration did not cover anything in particular but they dwelt on general matters. Hence, the U.S. promises were general.

Talbani said that the visit he paid to Kuwait in March this year and the various meetings there "were successful."

Meanwhile, Jalal Talbani refuted what has been circulating about his receiving Kuwaiti aid, estimated to be in

the range of $10 million in return for recognizing the newly demarcated Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. He explained that the stand of the Kurdish Front toward Kuwait and its border was a principled stand and not a commercial transaction.

Concern Over U.S. Ability To Mold Arab Opinion

JN1506112093 Kuwait KUWAIT TIMES in English 9 Jun 93 p 1

[Editorial: "Ending Boycott"]

[Text] Until yesterday our legislators were not ready to believe the report that Kuwait had changed its position on the Arab boycott of Israel. Some of them, who talked of US pressure on Kuwait to end the boycott, said an important issue like the boycott could not be decided without being referred to the National Assmbly. The legislators are in a better position to tell what important issues should be discussed by the House and when. Then Israeli boycott issue may be due for discussion for formally lifting the ban on trade links with Israel. They can wait until they are asked to debate it. That is not our concern at the moment. What concerns us immediately is the US success in moulding Arab opinion in favour of Israel without succeeding much to change Israel's position on key Arab issues. Kuwait which was stated to be resisting US pressure has definitely bowed to it in ending indirect boycott of Israel. It had little choice to resist in its predicament created by Saddam Husayn's invasion and what followed. The Arab League which failed to stop Saddam from invading Kuwait may not be in a position to stop its members to change their policy on Israel. The split that appeared in the League following Saddam's blunder may have weakened the League to assert itself on issues on consensus.

Kuwait and other Arab states which disengaged from indirect boycott of Israel continue to adhere to direct boycott of the Jewish state. Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad has defended this change of outlook by saying: "The rules of boycott allow this if there are considerations related to the national interest of the state". The circumstances in which Kuwait has signalled a change of position is too well known to call for elaboration. Muslim countries that generally appreciated Kuwait's stance during its occupation by Iraq may not question our new position. But that does not mean that they will accept the US policy of influencing Arabs without applying sufficient pressure on Israel to end occupation of Arab lands. Muslims the world over have seen the US and its Western allies fail on Bosnia. US Secretary of State Warren Christopher failed to sell US line in enforcing the Vance-Owen peace plan. He has definitely succeeded in pressuing Arab states to end their indirect boycott of Israel. His success in these parts would remain a failure as long as he does not goad Israel to make a major advance on peaceful settlement in the Middle East. Christopher still can make amends by applying his influence on Israel.

Large-Scale Joint Military Exercises Concluded

LD1506142393 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 15 Jun (KUNA)—The final project in the "Eager Mace" maneuvers has concluded today in the Kuwaiti area of Umm al-Himan. It involved combat in populated areas. Units of the Kuwaiti army, the National Guard, police, and the British royal forces took part.

Major General 'Ali Mu'men, Army chief of the general staff, told newsmen at the conclusion of maneuvers that combat in populated areas was one of the exercises which required a lot of drive and concentration in view of the difficulty to control the fighting and also because it employs a lot of forces, a matter that requires intensification.

He confirmed that much was learned from these joint maneuvers with friendly states throughout the last two years while noting the importance of continuing these exercises.

He explained that no effects had been felt in the maneuvers with forces of friendly states despite the fact that U.S. forces had to leave for Somalia. The exercises were trimmed but they nevertheless continued.

He pointed out that building the Kuwaiti forces will include various military formations in order that they become a balanced force capable of carrying out their tasks in an effective way. [passage omitted]

Investigation of Investment Office Recommended

LD1206173293 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1245 GMT 12 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 12 Jun (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Audit Bureau has completed its special report on the state of Kuwaiti investments abroad, which are administered by the London-based Kuwait Investment Office [KIO].

The report, which was submitted last week by the head of the Audit Bureau, Faris al-Waqyan, to National Assembly Speaker Ahmad al-S'adun, contained an exhaustive study of the state of investments and important recommendations to deal with shortcomings.

In section five, the bureau recommended, among other things, the setting up of small offices for the administration of Kuwaiti investments in world markets rather than confining them to the London-based KIO. The report said "the London office is unable to administer the general reserves and the coming generations fund in the European, Japanese, and British markets, and in world currency markets, or to follow up investments in them in a way that guarantees sound performance and the safety of the invested funds."

The report goes on to say "that the KIO is unable to provide the General Investment Authority in Kuwait with prompt data and information pertaining to these

activities." The Audit Bureau recommended a re-examination of the size of the assets, number of employees, expenditure, and competence of the KIO and a determination of the persons in it who were responsible for investing much of the reserves in diversified companies with bad financial status and making short-term deposits in semi-bankrupt companies. It also recommended that those persons should be questioned and the proper legal measures be taken.

The report, which was prepared within the six-month period defined by the National Assembly on 5 December 1992, recommended the speeding up of the compiling and studying of the loss-making projects and investments entered into by the KIO to get rid of them and to rearrange the affairs of the remaining assets of the general reserves and of the coming generations' reserves fund. [passage omitted]

The report recommended avoiding complex investments, such as the Spanish investments that require setting up holding companies controlling many companies with unrelated disparate activities. It also called for confining investments to sophisticated markets and to highly liquid investments, in addition to discovering the shortcomings in the preparation of financial data and supporting documentation for investment decisions. [passage omitted]

The general reserves account amounted to about 7,102,051,000 Kuwaiti dinars [KD], that is more than $21 billion in June 1992. The coming generations' fund, set up in 1972 as an alternative reserve to the oil wealth, amounted on that same date to KD3.108 billion with assets estimated on 31 January 1993 at about KD45.347 billion.

Oman

Economic Cooperation Accords Signed With India

BK1506104693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] India and Oman have decided to set up a joint venture fertilizer plant in the sultanate and agreed to boost bilateral trade, economic, and technical cooperation. Both the sides also formulized an agreement on hydrocarbons. The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and his Omani counterpart signed the pact on the hydrocarbons in Muscat today, envisaging promotion and facilitation of investments in this sector by the two countries. A memorandum of understanding on the gas-based fertilizer plant was initialed by high officials of the two countries. It is estimated to cost $300 million and will be executed with the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers and Krishak Bharati Cooperative Limited in collaboration with Oman. It will produce ammonia and urea to be mainly utilized for exports from Oman.

The two sides also decided to promote and strengthen cooperation in the mutually identified economic, commercial, industrial, technical, and tourism sectors. An agreement to this effect was signed by the minister of state for commerce, Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, and his Omani counterpart.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, held intensive parleys with several Omani ministers separately earlier. He apprised them of the tremendous opportunities thrown up for foreign investments in India under the new liberalized economic policies. Mr. Narasimha Rao is scheduled to have a private lunch hosted by the ruler of Oman.

'New Chapter' Opened in Ties

BK1506134493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] India has offered to share its experience and expertise with Oman for its economic development. This was conveyed by the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, during his meeting with the Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, Mr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im, in Muscat today. The two leaders agreed to maintain close and informal relations keeping in view their geographical proximity. Mr. 'Abd-al-Mun'im said that his country believes in noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries and Oman aspires to establish closer economic and political relations with India. Expressing satisfaction over the India-Omani relations, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that his visit has opened a new chapter in the bilateral relations.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, held a separate meeting with his Omani counterpart. Their discussions covered international issues, including India-Pakistan relations. The Omani minister said that the spirit of the Simla Agreement must be the basis for India-Pakistan relations. Speaking about the feelings of the Omani people, he said they are thankful to the Indian people for their cooperation. Earlier, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and his Omani counterpart signed a pact on hydrocarbons today envisaging promotion and facilitation of investment in these sectors by the two countries.

A memorandum of understanding on a $300 million gas-based fertilizer project was initialed by high officials of the two countries.

Our correspondent Inderjit Behel says the prime minister today donated a four-kilowatt solar power generator as a gesture of good will. It costs 25 lakh rupees.

Air Defense Force Officers Reportedly Arrested

NC1506181893 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Baghdad has reported that the Iraqi regime arrested a large number of officers of the air defense force in the wake of the Iranian aircraft assault some time ago against Mojahedin-e Khalq posts in Diyala Governorate.

PUK Leader Queried on Moves To Overthrow Regime

NC1506195593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1621 GMT 15 Jun 93

["Text" of interview with Patriotic Union of Kurdistan Secretary General Jalal Talabani by an unidentified correspondent from the London-based Arabic newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on 14 June; place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] The Iraqi opposition has suddenly made moves on more than one level—by Baqir al-Hakim [leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, SAIRI] and by you. What is going on in Iraq?

[Talabani] In fact, the opposition's visits and moves are an integrated effort to save Iraq from dictatorship and replace it with a democracy. The visits to the United States, Britain, and France were aimed at (?exploring) the new U.S. Administration's position on the Iraqi regime and winning support for the Unified Iraqi National Congress [UINC] in particular and for the Iraqi opposition in general to end the dictatorship in Iraq. The aim of our visit to Saudi Arabia was to contact our brothers there and to perform the pilgrimage. My visit to Damascus is in line with a Kurdish adage that the beginning and the end are in Damascus. Our visits abroad began in Damascus and ended there. As for the visit by SAIRI leader Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, it has the same goal: to pave the way for overthrowing the Iraqi regime. We have come to coordinate with our brothers in Syria and the brothers in the national democratic trend in Syria to enhance cooperation and coordination among the Iraqi opposition parties.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Can we gather from your remarks that there are international and Arab guarantees or new bases to launch a campaign to overthrow the Iraqi regime?

[Talabani] Yes. There are guarantees and there are new developments that can be summed up in a clear U.S. position that opposes the continuation of the dictatorial regime in Baghdad and a demand that a democratic substitute be established. The new U.S. Administration supports democracy and human rights, and it recognizes the UINC as a replacement for the Iraqi regime. It also believes that the Iraqi people and their national forces have the task of overthrowing the dictatorial regime with the help of regional and foreign forces. There is now international insistence on the need to rid Iraq of dictatorship.

[Al-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Can we say that there is an international decision to overthrow the regime in Baghdad?

[Talabani] Of course. We came back from Washington, London, and Paris fully convinced that there is an international decision to end the dictatorship in Iraq and to replace it with a democratic regime.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Then how could Washington and the Western countries provide political and military aid to the opposition?

[Talabani] The Iraqi opposition is now being seriously urged to unify all its factions in a single organization, and this is an international and regional request. Now we believe that a large part of the opposition is united under the UINC. The other part could agree with the UINC either by joining it after it had been developed and improved or by establishing an alliance relationship between the two sides. Therefore, we believe that the Iraqi opposition in particular has been invited to unify its ranks, and the West and the Arab states should provide assistance to the struggle of the Iraqi people, led by the opposition, to achieve their goals. Governmental assistance naturally will come from the Arab brothers, Europe, and the United States. The assistance will come in various forms, be it political, economic, or military. It will include supplying the Iraqi resistance troops and the Iraqi opposition troops with some type of modern defense weapons needed to end the dictatorial aggression, if such aggression takes place. But we do not want foreign troops to come and fight the Iraqi Government; the Iraqi people can defend themselves through their own efforts and those of their armed forces. Therefore, we need military, not human, assistance from these countries.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] You said that these countries are required to provide military aid. Did they promise to provide you military aid?

[Talabani] We discussed with the United States and the West the question of political, financial, and moral assistance and all other forms of assistance. There was a clear and frank promise that the Iraqi people will obtain such aid.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] Did you hold contacts with Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim to coordinate your positions?

[Talabani] Several meetings took place with Baqir al-Hakim. I have met him in Mecca, on Mount 'Arafat [in Saudi Arabia], in holy Medina, and now in Damascus. There are several important topics for us to talk about.

SAIRI Chairman on Syria Visit, 5-Point Plan

JN1606092993 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1942 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Interview with Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, by Damascus correspondent Sana' al-Imam in Damascus; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Imam] Your Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI]: Which officials have you met with in Syria and what is their response to your political plan?

[Al-Hakim] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I first met with President Hafiz al-Asad for several hours, and then met several times with Vice President Khaddam. We discussed issues related to the Islamic situation in general, the situation in the region, and in Iraq in particular. With regard to the plan I proposed, there has been an overall response to the points included in the plan and many steps have been implemented. This visit aims at continuing the implementation of the plan.

[Al-Imam] This is with regard to the Syrian side. What is the response of the other parties of the Iraqi opposition to the political plan you proposed? Is there an international agreement on this plan?

[Al-Hakim] We now notice that the political stands of the opposition parties converge on many issues, particularly with regard to the previously controversial issue; that is, the form of the future administration in Iraq. There is also an agreement on the unity and solidarity of the Iraqi opposition. Some major parties to the Iraqi opposition were holding negotiations with the regime. Now, however, all parties to the opposition are standing in the trench of confrontation against the regime. There were several attempts to come up with a single formula that represents the Iraqi opposition. God willing, we will make the last step that will lead us to the final formula of unity.

[Al-Imam] To what extent do you coordinate with the opposition inside Iraq?

[Al-Hakim] We can say that the people inside Iraq are the opposition. Therefore, we believe that this people should make the major change, and the political and media tasks support this move. On this basis, we not only coordinate with the Iraqi people's move, but also interact with this move. Basic developments have taken place in the people's move. The positions of the military jihad organization have been consolidated and the resistance remained steadfast in the face of the regime's strategic plans to end the resistance, including the plan aimed at drying the marshlands. The resistance then developed, expanded, moved to terra firma, and recently waged battles with armored vehicles and tanks with units of the Iraqi Army dispatched from Baghdad. In another important development, the resistance is drawing a positive response in the ranks of the Iraqi Army. Some Iraqi Army units refrained from battling against the resistance and defection increased in the units charged with military operations against the resistance to approximately 60 percent. Furthermore, officers in the Iraqi Army pass information to the resistance about the movements of the Iraqi Army to take the necessary precautions. There are other types of responses which we should not reveal at this time.

[Al-Imam] Your Eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim: What are your capabilities now and what kind of assistance has Syria promised to extend to you?

[Al-Hakim] As you know, Syria has a firm stand vis-a-vis the Iraqi people. It supports the Iraqi people and believes that this people should continue its confrontation against the regime. It continues to back the Iraqi people. Consequently, Syria's promises proceed from this stand and view. On the level of implementation, we believe that assistance will develop in light of the progress in implementation. At this stage, we believe that assistance should be in terms of developing the military organization adopted by the people to change the regime so that there will be cohesion between this military organization and the Iraqi Army.

[Al-Imam] What is the extent of coordination between you and the other parties to the Iraqi opposition, and what was the outcome of your meeting with Talabani [leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] in Damascus?

[Al-Hakim] We have always been concerned about unifying the Iraqi opposition and coordinating with the other parties. Coordination still exists on a good level. The meetings with brother Jalal Talabani here in Damascus were fruitful and positive. We were more or less in agreement on the overall points of discussion.

[Al-Imam] Your Eminence al-Hakim: What is your assessment of the Salah-al-Din conference and what is your view on dividing Iraq?

[Al-Hakim] We believe that Iraq should remain united in terms of people, territory, and political entity. The form of administration might be different, but this unity should be preserved in all these dimensions. Out of respect for all opinions and stands adopted by this or that party, we also believe that the form of administration must be decided by the Iraqi people.

With regard to the Salah-al-Din conference, I personally did not participate in this conference or in any of these formulas, because I must be with all, rather than be a party to any one of these formulas. At the same time, I have made some remarks in public and other remarks to the concerned parties. We are still following up these remarks, and achieving progress through the response to the remarks.

[Al-Imam] Such as what?

[Al-Hakim] There were remarks, which I made in public, on the formula of national and sectarian divisions. There were other comments on some issues which would create fears in the region. The regime is trying to achieve this in order to maintain its presence under the pretext of representing Iraq's unity. Other issues are related to the representation of various parties. I believe that the unity of the opposition should really mirror the nature and structure of the Iraqi people so that it will be capable of addressing a unified message to the Iraqi people and of affecting this people and their moves. I made these remarks to the brothers, followed them up, and found a good and positive response. Consequently, development was noticed in previous and recent meetings.

[Al-Imam] What are the objectives of your visit to Kuwait?

[Al-Hakim] The objective of my visit to Kuwait is also to follow up the political jihad plan. I proposed this plan to neighborly countries—Syria, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Turkey—and I am still following it up. During this visit, I will follow up on this subject as well as other relief issues inside Iraq.

[Al-Imam] Would you define the major points in your political plan?

[Al-Hakim] I said that the political plan is based on the following five points:

1. Military organization of the Iraqi people: We have already embarked on this and we can see this clearly now in the resistance which I mentioned earlier in this interview.

2. The Iraqi Army's cooperation with this plan: I said that the Iraqi Army and professional military are responding positively to this plan.

3. The unity of the Iraqi opposition and the unifying plan of the Iraqi people: We have achieved many steps in this direction and we are still proceeding ahead.

4. Achieving regional cooperation and coordination with regard to the overall Iraqi issue: This has developed and regional coordination meetings are currently being held to discuss the Iraqi issue.

5. International support for the Iraqi people: Great developments have been achieved in this regard in terms of procedures and UN resolutions. We are waiting for a new development; namely, the trial of Saddam as a war criminal who also commits annihilation and genocide against the Iraqi people.

Commentary Questions U.S. Human Rights Record

JN1506190793 Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1520 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, Monday, the third world conference on human rights convened in Vienna under UN auspices. The convocation of this international conference is highly important. Despite the fact that the United States is determining the positions of satellite states with respect to the views the latter are enunciating on human rights, and although the United States is capable of manipulating the conference as it wishes by lavishing excessive media attention on some trouble spots and denying such attention to other trouble spots, basic human rights principles will remain unchanged. Besides, anyone can look for himself, draw comparisons, and reach the proper conclusions.

The slogan of upholding human rights is an extremely effective weapon the United States has been using to promote its own image and tarnish that of its opponents and enemies. In the name of upholding human rights, it persisted with its Cold War against the socialist countries, against active members of the Nonaligned Movement, and also against each and every country that chose to pursue an independent and neutral line, drawing on its intrinsic resources; that is, against each and every country that did not succumb to the terms of the U.S. containment and polarization effort.

On the other hand, the West, in general, has exaggerated the care it accords to animals. Western countries contend that human beings in the West enjoy all conceivable rights, and that their being full-fledged members of the civilized community of nations prompts them to show extreme care to animals, even if this is at the expense of human beings. The latter claim has been recently validated when a British girl who let her mouse die of hunger was tried and fined.

However, can propaganda be more powerful and credible than facts? Will the United States continue to impress world states to the extent of prompting them to express its own views and attitudes? Facts, regardless of how skillful propaganda can be, remain more convincing. Besides, the United States cannot continue to promote the scenes it carefully selects from the U.S. jungle as being representative of life in the United States. For there is racial discrimination in the United States which professes to be a staunch advocate of freedom and democracy. There are also poor people there, totaling 50 million out of 250 million, which is the population of the United States. This means that one-fifth of the U.S. population is poor. Moreover, there are homeless people, beggars, sick people, and epidemics there. Additionally, there are secret laboratories conducting tests on human beings in the United States.

All this concerns the domestic U.S. front. As for the U.S. human rights record outside the United States, it is replete with crimes against humanity. This was made manifestly clear by the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, the Vietnam war, the enslavement of Latin America, the creation of the cancerous Zionist entity within the Arab heartland, and the aggression launched against Iraq to kill it and partition its territory.

How does the United States justify its aggression against humanity, while it professes to be a staunch advocate of human rights and human welfare? It tells flagrant lies. It promotes the notion that it kills a party so the two parties are not both killed. That is, it spares bloodshed provided it is the party that is not victimized. This principle is also espoused, one way or another, by its satellites. The United States has shown an eagerness to arm its satellites so they will not be the victims of any fighting.

According to a report recently released in the United States itself, 23 countries, headed by the Zionist entity, topped the list of human rights violators in the world. Nonetheless, this entity has continued to receive sophisticated U.S. weapons, thanks to the generosity of its U.S. godfather.

Regarding U.S. intervention in the domestic affairs of foreign countries in the name of human rights, it has been made manifestly clear by U.S. moves toward developments pertaining to Palestine, Iraq, Sudan, and Somalia. As usual, the Americans organize gangs, plant artificial entities, cause hunger, bring about strife and fighting, and make official announcements regarding afflicted areas and safe havens as well. They also draw up parallel lines, the violation of which elicits intervention on their part. Thus, they kill in the name of human rights, and enforce embargoes in the name of human rights, too. As for those who die by gunfire or by starvation and sickness, they, according to the Americans, are to blame.

The question that we then pose to the third world conference on human rights is the following: For how long will man continue to be killed in the name of human rights?

UN Human Rights Stand Challenged

JN1506202193 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Baghdad, June 15, INA—A U.N-sponsored human rights conference began in Vienna on Monday with the participation of politicians, officials and non-governmental bodies from 180 countries. The conference is the largest to be held in 25 years.

In its article for today, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER daily said that the human rights conference has been portrayed as a significant event. But will it achieve its goals in a world where human rights records are evaluated through a double-standard approach?

The Vienna gathering should be a forum where justice is done. For years now, the U.S-led Western world has been using the human rights issue as a means of pressure against many governments all over our globe. Ironically, this misuse of human rights is being done under the name of the world's highest body, the United Nations, the paper said.

It added: The West has shed crocodile tears on what it calls human rights abuses in many parts of the world. But it is the Western world that is perpetrating human rights violations against many peoples of the world. Perhaps the most vivid example is the starving of 18 million people in Iraq through depriving them of basic human rights to food, medicine and other decent life requirements.

The paper further said that the UN, which is patronizing the current conference in Vienna, has violated human rights principles through maintaining the most unjust blockade on the people of Iraq. The embargo, now in its 35th month, has claimed lives of tens of thousands of women, children and the elederly. It has even deprived the Iraqis of the right to communicate with other peoples of the world or acquire knowledge.

It is a pity that the UN is being used as a tool in the hands of Western powers to blackmail sovereign states and undermine their territorial integrity. The U.S. and its allies used human rights as a pretext to interfere in Iraq's internal affairs and impose what they called "safe havens" and no-fly zones in the north and south of the country to "protect human rights" there, the paper confirmed.

This happens at a time when the UN is doing nothing to punish perpetrators of human rights abuses in occupied Palestine, Egypt, Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina and many other parts of the world.

The paper concluded by saying: Those gathering in Vienna for the human rights conference should be brave enough to take a firm stand towards the West's misuse of the human rights issue. And only then can the conference acquire significance.

Letter to UN Protests Recent U-2 Overflights

JN1306202393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 13 Jun 93

[Text] Iraq has lodged a protest with the United Nations over the continued violations of Iraqi airspace committed by the U.S. U-2 spy plane, which takes off from an air base in Saudi Arabia, under the guise of conducting aerial survey for the UN Special Commission.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said that this plane violated the Iraqi airspace on 28 May and 3 and 7 June when it flew over large areas in central, southern, and western Iraq. Afterward, this plane headed toward its base in Saudi territory.

The letter noted that these three violations have raised to 139 the number of violations of the Iraqi airspace committed by this plane.

The letter reiterated the well-known Iraqi position, which stipulates that this plane is being used for purposes other than those mandated by the UN Security Council, and that its activities undermine Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Notes to Arab League Protest Allied Use of Facilities

Sorties Flown 7, 8 Jun

JN1106153293 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, June 11, INA—Iraq has protested to the Arab League over the continued Saudi and Kuwaiti facilities offered to the U.S., British and French military aircraft violating Iraq's airsapce. In a letter sent to the League's secretary general today, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League said that the allied planes had flown 99 hostile sorties over Iraq on June 7 and 8 instant, coming from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

The letter stressed that these violations posed a serious threat to Iraq's sovereignty and national unity.

Airspace Violated 9, 10 Jun

JN1306113793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 13 Jun 93

[Text] Iraq has protested to the Arab League the continued facilities provided by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait for the U.S., British, and French aircraft to violate Iraqi airspace, thus posing a serious threat to the security and sovereignty of Iraq.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, Iraq's permanent representative to the league said that aircraft taking off from bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait continued their violations of the Iraqi airspace on 9 and 10 June. They carried out 40 hostile air sorties.

The Iraqi representative enclosed with his letter a list detailing these violations. He requested that the letter be distributed among the Arab member states to acquaint them with these regrettable facts.

Sorties Conducted 11, 12 Jun

JN1506112793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (INA)—Iraq has once again protested over the continued facilities offered by the rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to U.S., British, and French aircraft violating Iraqi airspace, noting this poses a serious threat to Iraq's security, sovereignty, and national unity.

A letter sent by Iraq's permanent Arab League representative to the League's secretary general said on 11 and 12 June, these aircraft continued to violate Iraqi airspace, taking off from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, and conducted 100 aggressive sorties.

Iraq's representative enclosed with the letter a list detailing these violations and asked that the letter be circulated to Arab League member states.

'Aircraft of Aggression' Drop Flares in Ninawa 8 Jun

JN1206114193 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Jun 93

[Text] Ninawa, 400 km north of Baghdad, 12 Jun (INA)—The aircraft of aggression dropped three flares on the al-Salamiyah area in Ninawa Governorate at 1010 on 8 June.

An INA correspondent in the governorate said that the three flares went out in the air.

Incidents in Ninawa, Irbil 11 Jun

JN1406102793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0928 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Text] Mosul, 14 Jun (INA)—The aircraft of aggression dropped four flares on two areas in the Ninawa and Irbil Governorates on Friday, 11 June. The INA correspondent in the two governorates said that at 1135 on 11 June, the aircarft of aggression dropped two flares south of the Saddam Dam's lake in the Ninawa Governorate. The flares went out in the air.

Two other flares were dropped on the al-'Adnaniyah area, south of the al-Kuwayr village in the Irbil Governorate. They set fire to a grassland with an area of 1-1.5 donums, which was extinguished.

Rabin: Syria Rejected Initiatives for Meetings

TA1506150493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Excerpts] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, says that various elements have tried to initiate a meeting between himself and senior Syrian leaders, but so far Syria has not reacted positively to these initiatives. Rabin said Israel is willing to implement a withdrawal on the Golan Heights, but first it is waiting for Syrian answers regarding the essence of peace. Rabin also said that most of those who have been demonstrating against him in Jerusalem over the last few days are Gush Emunim members rather than Golan Heights settlers. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Horowitz] Following his meeting with paratroopers along the northern border, Yitzhaq Rabin answered correspondents' questions, saying Israel is willing to implement a withdrawal to secure and recognized borders on the Golan Heights but is still waiting to hear how the Syrians conceive peace. Referring to the resumption of the negotiations in Washington, Mr. Rabin made the following remarks:

[Rabin] When I entered office as prime minister I knew that there would not be a realistic possibility of peace with Jordan and Lebanon prior to a breakthrough with Syria or the Palestinians. We do not have complicated problems with Jordan, but the latter has clarified during the early stages of the negotiations that whatever is discussed with it is conditional on an interim arrangement agreement being achieved with the Palestinians. Only then will it be possible to think in terms of an agreement with Jordan. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ideas for Golan Security Arrangements Detailed

TA1606112493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 93 p A2

["Background" report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpts] The idea of Syria and Israel discussing the security arrangements, irrelevant of the definitions of the nature of peace or the extent of the Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights, is not new. It was raised in the past and was even discussed in the previous rounds of talks with the Syrians.

In one of the government sessions, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres suggested that a discussion of security arrangements be held with Syria prior to a discussion of the nature of peace as a means to circumvent the current difficulties in obtaining the Syrian clarification regarding the nature of the full peace.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, however, rejected this idea outright. Rabin insists that the issue of the security arrangements be discussed as part of the final peace arrangement. Rabin believes that the security arrangements should be a derivative of the peace arrangement. Hence, it is necessary that the Syrians clarify the nature of peace they intend to have before discussing security arrangements. [passage omitted]

Israeli references to the issue of the security arrangements are broader and more diverse than those presented by the Syrians. Following are the main Israeli offers:

—Stationing military forces of the superpowers on the Golan and in Syria as a guarantee that the Syrian Army does not launch an attack on Israel, while the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops deployed on the Golan Heights are slightly thinned out.

—A demand that the Syrians deploy a large part of their forces farther from the Golan (for example, two divisions in the Tadmur area and one in the area of Alexandreta [name as published]), leaving a relatively limited force of two to three divisions in the area between the front line and Damascus.

—A demilitarization of the Golan Heights, provided that the Syrians demilitarize a large area, from the border to north of Damascus. This will allow Israel to make do with long-distance lookout posts on the Golan and, should the Syrians present such a condition for accepting the lookout posts, Israel may consider allowing Syrian and UN lookout posts there as well.

—Leaving the IDF in charge of the Golan Heights' security, since only the IDF can provide sufficient security and the U.S. Army should not be involved in defending the State of Israel.

—Additional modifications of the international border, including: Israel will hold 10 meters [as published] east of the Sea of Galilee; the borderline will be 2 to 3 km east of the Jordan River and not right on it; securing the water sources (Nahr Baniyas); placing lookout posts on the Golan, the most important of which are on the Hermon Mountain shoulder and on one or more hills in the region.

—Since the construction of peace might last a long time, during which a threat of war might be emerge, it is imperative that the IDF remain deployed on the eastern mountain ridge line for 10 to 15 years. After this interim period, compromises on this issue could be considered according to the state of peace. [passage omitted]

Israel insists that Syria demilitarize a large area east of the Golan Heights, including the plateau itself, to reduce the risk of it launching a sudden attack against Israel. Israel maintains that the demilitarized area east of the Golan should be of dimensions that would take offensive Syrian forces 24 hours to cross, meaning at least 100 km from the eastern edge of the Golan.

Intelligence warning installations are also mentioned in the context of the security arrangements. Israel demands that its warning installations remain on the Hermon and on some of the hills in the region. This should provide Israel with an intelligence forewarning which would give it enough time for counter measures, such as drafting reserve soldiers, deploying them on the Golan, and conducting a defensive war there.

Israel also presents demands for manned electronic warning stations and long-range lookout posts on the Golan. [passage omitted]

Poll: Support for Giving Up Golan Heights for Peace

TA1606143293 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 16 Jun 93 p 2

[Report by Eliyahu Hasin]

[Excerpts] If there is a clear, unequivocal choice between genuine full peace with Syria in exchange for returning the Golan Heights to Syrian sovereignty or ending the peace process and a worsening in relations between the two states to the extent of risking another war, 49 percent of adult Jewish Israelis prefer the first option compared to 39 percent who prefer the second.

The data is based on a poll conducted by the Shelah Institute and encompassed 557 interviewees representing the adult Jewish population, except for kibbutz residents. The interviews were held over the telephone in May. The margin of error is 4.1 percent.

The interviewees were presented with a tough choice, as reported earlier, which observers in Israel and abroad believe is similar to the one Israel will face if the talks with Syria succeed. They were asked, "What do you think Israel should prefer" in such a circumstance?

The answers to the two choices given were:

—To yield and withdraw from the Golan Heights in exchange for genuine peace: 49 percent

—Not to yield, even at the price of a war: 39 percent.

—No opinion/no response: 12 percent [passage omitted]

The interviewees were also asked the following question:

Among Golan Heights inhabitants there is a group that claims that if a decision is made to withdraw from the Golan they will even use arms to oppose it by force. Do you support/oppose such behavior?

—Definitely oppose it: 72 percent

—Oppose it to a certain extent: 12 percent

—Support it to a certain extent: 6 percent

—Definitely support it: 6 percent

—Summing up: opposed: 84 percent; in favor: 12 percent;

—No response: 4 percent. [passage omitted]

If should not be a surprise that the greatest opposition was among those with university education (88 percent), high incomes (89 percent), aged 50-65 (90 percent), and Labor voters (87 percent). Those in favor of violent opposition were people with high school education (13 percent), low incomes (15 percent), aged 18-29 (20 percent), and Likud voters (18 percent).

Peres Views Palestinian Relations, Peace Talks

AU1506213793 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 2000 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Hans Benedict in Vienna; date not given—recorded; in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Benedict] In view of the poor results of the past negotiations, are there any realistic expectations of success regarding the 10th round of talks, which has just begun now?

[Peres] We have finally left the phase of procedures and are dealing with substantive things now. Of course, many differences are manifesting themselves; however, we are now really dealing with concrete issues. We have agreed on definitive working areas in special committees. One such substantive area includes the opening up of land and water supply; another one concerns human rights, which is also very substantive; and, third, the future judiciary for the Palestinians.

[Benedict] The Palestinians have always considered what you suggested too little in the past. How can you make it acceptable?

[Peres] We have suggested full leeway of action in quite a number of areas for which we have been responsible in the past—for instance, regarding the whole educational system, in the health sector, and in the large domain of the economy.

[Benedict] Would that be an automatic transition to autonomous self-administration?

[Peres] We have even suggested that we are not waiting for complete autonomy, but want the Palestinians to be responsible for the most important domains in their own lives.

[Benedict] Couldn't that lead to initial partial autonomy for the Gaza Strip, including the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip?

[Peres] Yes, it would be the first step toward giving power to the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Why not?

[Benedict] Why did the Palestinians reject it?

[Peres] I do not think they have totally rejected it.

[Benedict] But they did not say yes.

[Peres] They did not because they naturally want to have more. Everything will now depend on the negotiations.

Labor MK To Meet With PLO Officials in Europe

TA1506175693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Labor Knesset Member Hagay Merom, chairman of the Knesset House Committee and member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, says he will soon travel to Europe to meet with PLO officials. He added that although he knows this contradicts the formal position of the government, he believes that eventually there will be negotiations between Israel and the PLO. [passage omitted]

Rabin To Consider Easing Closure Restrictions

TA1506190793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister tonight promised the Meretz ministers to weigh affirmatively their demand for additional concessions regarding the closure on the territories and the Arab residents' living conditions.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik has learned that Rabin will appear before the Meretz Knesset faction next week. The Meretz ministers requested the meeting in the wake of the acute criticism of the closure leveled by Yosi Sarid at the 13 June cabinet meeting.

Tonight the Meretz minister explained to Rabin how difficult it is for them and their constituents to put up with the extreme plight of the Palestinians, especially those in Gaza, and proposed again a series of alleviating steps.

Shohat Against Long-Term Investments in Golan

TA1606104693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Finance Minister Avraham Shohat has come out against long-term investments in the Golan Heights. Speaking a short while ago in the Knesset, Shohat said in the peace negotiations currently being held discuss much more far-reaching issues. However, Shohat stressed that no government decision had been taken against long-term investments in the Golan. He was expressing only his own opinion.

New Committee To Hear Settlements' Complaints

TA1506165393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The government has advised the High Court of Justice that, following the justices' recommendation, it has established an exceptions committee to hear Jewish local councils' arguments concerning instances of particularly serious damage caused to specific settlements by the total cessation of construction in the territories.

The committee can recommend that the finance and construction and housing ministers complete previously discontinued construction, provided that this does not entail expenditures from the state budget and that the construction is completed by the original contractors.

Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the committee's establishment was announced by a state representative at today's hearing of an appeal submitted by the Ari'el, Avney Hefetz, and Revava settlements against the government decision to stop all construction in all the settlements.

U.S. Citizen Sentenced to 6 Months for Aiding Hamas

TA1606100893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 93 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpt] The Military Judge Advocate's office has recently made a plea bargain deal with Muhammad Jarrad, a U.S. citizen who was charged with working for an illegal organization following his activity for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in the territories. According to the plea bargain, which was approved several days ago by the Ramallah Military Court headed by Lieutenant Colonel Shlomo Isaksohn, Jarrad will serve a six-month prison term beginning 25 January, when he was first arrested, and ending on 24 July. He was also handed a six-month suspended sentence. [passage omitted]

Defense Official Notes Improving Ties With France

TA1606053893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri said that there has been a marked improvement in relations between the defense establishments of Israel and France. David 'Ivri, who is currently visiting the Le Bourget air show, was speaking after a meeting with French Defense Minister Francois Leotard.

In a telephone interview with our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, the defense ministry director general noted that the pilotless planes produced by the Israel Air Force had aroused much interest at the air show. 'Ivri added that agreements had already been signed between foreign and Israeli companies.

World Bodies Urged To Appeal Kuwaiti Death Sentences

JN1506153893 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The Jordanian House of Representatives has issued a statement denouncing the death sentences passed by the Kuwaiti Government on a number of Jordanian citizens. The statement urges international, Arab, and humanitarian bodies to intervene to rescind these sentences. It appeals to them to exert the maximum efforts with the competent Kuwaiti authorities to release these innocent citizens. The following is the text of the statement:

Several days ago, the Government of Kuwait passed death sentences on a group of Jordanian citizens on charges of collaborating with Iraq. What is saddening in this measure is that the trial, like other trials in Kuwait of individuals from Arab communities, particularly the Jordanian and Palestinian communities, lacks the legality that is required in such matters and totally conflicts with human rights.

Some of those sentenced to death, as well as the other detainees, are young men and are still students. It is not possible that they have any connection with the so-called plot of collaboration with Iraqi authorities.

The Jordanian House of Representatives appeals to you to use your maximum good offices with the competent Kuwaiti authorities to release these innocent citizens, as well as other innocent Jordanians jailed there. They have lived in Kuwait to secure a decent living, assist their Kuwaiti brethren, and struggle to preserve their dignity and human rights, and not to plot against the state security of any state whatsoever.

The House addressed this statement to the Arab Parliamentary Union, the Interparliamentary Union, the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, the UN secretary general, the Arab League secretary general, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Human Rights Organization.

Al-Majali Urges Restoration of Arab Solidarity

JN1406171793 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has underlined the need for restoring Arab solidarity and reconciliation. Mr. al-Majali called on Arab Thought Forum to organize a dialogue between intellectuals to discuss means of overpassing the effects of Gulf crisis and building Arab solidarity on strong foundations.

In interview published today with the Qatari AL-RAYAH newspaper, Mr. al-Majali expressed optimism for overpassing previous developments, asserting that time is able to explain what happened and unravel the realities. Mr. al-Majali said that the Jordanian Government welcomes visits between officials from Jordan and Arab countries, who previously had misunderstandings with Jordan.

In another interview with Bahraini newspaper AL-AYYAM, also published today, Mr. al-Majali affirmed that Arab reconciliation is possible, and said: There is a great opportunity to achieve that. The prime minister said that release of all the prisoners and detainees as a result of the Gulf crisis is a need to end the consequences of the crisis.

Minister of Interior Licenses New Party

JN1506085493 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Jun 93 pp 32, 22

[Excerpts] Amman—Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad yesterday licensed a new party called the al-Watan [homeland] Party. [passage omitted]

The party's political program emphasizes that liberating the citizen is the only way to liberate the homeland. The party adopts "education, work, and justice" as its slogan out of its belief that it is the right and duty of everyone to search for truth and seek knowledge and education wherever they may be.

In its platform, the party believes that work is part of human dignity and that justice is the basis of rule. The party also believes in the freedom of work and expression in accordance with the constitution and valid laws and renounces all forms of violence. [passage omitted]

The party's preparatory committee held a meeting several days ago and elected 'Akif al-Fayiz as the party's temporary leader, Hasan al-Kayid as the party's temporary secretary general, and Hakam Khayr as the party's temporary media spokesman.'

Prince Returns From Vienna, Sworn In as Regent

JN1506185893 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, returned to Amman from Vienna this evening after taking part in the world conference on human rights at the personal invitation of UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. His Highness Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath before the Cabinet as regent during his majesty the king's absence from the homeland.

Report Details Arrest of Returning Arab Afghans

NC1006144493 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 7 Jun 93 p 16-17

[Report by Wa'il al-Abrashi from Amman]

[Text] Jordanian security bodies have arrested 15 Jordanians and Palestinians on their return from Afghanistan.

Their interrogation has angered the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan, which holds most seats in the Jordanian House of Representatives. It demanded their immediate release (!!)

The Jordanian Interior Ministry has released some of them, but is still investigating the others, who have undergone training in combat, the manufacture of explosive devices, and the use of various types of weapon.

"ROSE AL-YUSUF" has learned that the confessions by the Jordanian Afghans have revealed a deep split within the ranks of Jordanians and Palestinians who went to fight in Afghanistan. The split reached the extent of fighting and armed clashes. Some raised the slogan of death in Palestine first. "They admitted they were deceived by the slogan raised by the others as a cover for sending them to Afghanistan, namely (the road to Palestine passes through Kabul). That was the slogan raised by the Arab Afghan amir Shaykh Dr. " 'Abdallah 'Azzam," who was killed when his car exploded.

One of the Jordanian Afghans sprang a surprise during his interrogation, when he confessed that Shaykh " 'Abdallah 'Azzam" was killed by drug merchants when an explosive charge was detonated under his car in November 1989.

They [as published] noted that shortly before his death, Shaykh " 'Azzam" failed to secure the necessary funds to spend on his Arab Afghan followers. He also failed to heal a split in the ranks of his followers, when, after the Soviet departure from Afghanistan, some of them discovered that the holy war they waged had become a dirty war of interests and the road to Palestine could pass through any place but Kabul. Clashes then took place between the two sides.

Although some extremists in Jordan believe drug merchants killed Shaykh " 'Azzam" for Israel and Washington, since the Arab Afghans' amir had called for turning the battle for Palestine through Jordan, the death of Shaykh " 'Azzam" remains a mystery to Jordanian and Palestinian circles.

The returning Jordanian and Palestinian Afghans have confessed they were the first group of Arabs to reach Afghanistan and take part, under the leadership of Shaykh " 'Azzam", in establishing the first office for the mujahidin in Peshawar to send Arab fighters to the heart of the battle in Afghanistan.

In exclusive statements to ROSE AL-YUSUF, the Jordanian interior minister in the government that resigned recently and the one who ordered the arrest of the returning Arabs, said: We have no statistics on the number of Jordanians who have gone to Afghanistan. We are not facing an exceptional situation that necessitates the interrogation of the returnees. Normal circumstances exist that require certain incidents to be confirmed or specific individuals to be checked. He said not all the returning Arabs were being detained. The measure was limited to specific cases that require investigation. He added that each country has its own particular security conditions.

On whether there is security coordination between Egypt and Jordan on those returning from Afghanistan, he said: No coordination of this sort has taken place. Egypt has asked us for nothing in this respect. He added: We are following events in Egypt because of our interest in Egypt as a brother.

On whether Jordan is likely to fall into the circle of violence and extremism, he said: We will allow no violations and we will escape this danger, God willing.

Ibrahim Khuraysat, official spokesman of the deputies of the Islamic movement in Jordan, the Muslim Brotherhood, told ROSE AL-YUSUF exclusively that the Jordanian authorities have arrested those returning from Afghanistan because they are apprehensive following reports published in Egypt and Algeria that the Arabs returning from Afghanistan are leading the violent action in those countries.

Jordanian security is expecting large numbers of Jordanian and Palestinian Afghans to return in the next few days. According to Jordanian sources, this requires a plan be drawn up to deal with them in a way that avoids angering the Muslim Brotherhood, a trend that is expanding greatly in Jordan, while at the same time ensuring that the returning Afghans will not turn into tools of violence and chaos that will threaten the country's security and stability.

Jordan's security fears are increased by Jordanian and Palestinian Afghans being the first regiment of Arab Afghans to go to Afghanistan to fight six years ago, so they are the most experienced in combat.

Army Opens Fire on Israeli Planes Overflying Sidon

NC1506171193 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Citing security sources in Sidon, REUTER has reported that Lebanese Army antiaircraft guns opened fire today on Israeli combat planes. The planes were flying at low altitude over Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps and conducting mock raids.

Two Palestinians Injured in Clash With Israelis

NC1606082793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] A Palestinian security source in Sidon has reported that two members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] were injured last night during a clash with the occupation forces near Arnun township, which is adjacent to the occupied security strip.

It is recalled that the PFLP, led George Habash, is opposed to the current negotiations in Washington.

Police Say Briton Target of Robbery, Not Kidnapping

NC1506121593 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Statement issued by the public relations department of the general directorate of the Internal Security Forces]

[Text] A private radio station this morning reported that a British national was the target of a kidnap attempt in Saqiyat al-Janzir. The general directorate of the Internal Security Forces would like to explain that this report is untrue, because the national was the target of a robbery, not a kidnap attempt.

The details of the incident are as follows: At 0645 today, when British engineer Michael Clark entered his private car parked near his home in Saqiyat al-Janzir, two persons unknown, one carrying a military revolver, entered his car and stole his leather suitcase and car keys. The pair then escaped in their American car to an unknown destination.

An investigation is under way to identify and arrest the culprits.

Saudi Ambassador Named; Japan Willing To Open Embassy

NC1106170293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] The prime minister's office has been officially notified of a Saudi decision to appoint Ahmad al-Kuhaymi as Saudi ambassador to Lebanon. The new ambassador, who is currently serving as his country's ambassador to Syria, will assume his post soon.

Japan has expressed willingness to reopen its embassy in Beirut as soon as possible. This was noted by the Japanese charge in Damascus (Takeo Natsumi) following a meeting with Foreign Ministry Secretary General Ambassador Zafir al-Hasan yesterday.

Junblatt May Allow 'Many' Christians in PSP Command

NC1606090793 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 14 Jun 93 p 14

[Excerpt] Sources close to the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] said that the Political Bureau's decision to tender a collective resignation and hand over full authority to party leader Walid Junblatt is meant to allow him to include many Christian figures in the party's leadership. More than 40 percent of the first PSP Political Bureau under martyr leader Kamal Junblatt were Christians, including a number of Maronites from Bikfayya. [passage omitted]

Source Explains U.S. Security Plan for Golan

TA1606110893

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew on its 16 June edition on page two carries a 1,400-word report by Arab affairs correspondent 'Uzi Mahanymi who, citing "a Syrian source in London," provides details of the U.S. offer for security arrangements on the Golan Heights. The Syrian source notes that the offer was presented "in U.S.-Syrian contacts outside the regular channels of communication."

The U.S. offer, "was forged in consultations with Syria. Following are the main points of the offer: an Israeli announcement on a full withdrawal to the international borders of June 1967; a demilitarization of the entire region, from the Damascus Basin to the Naftali Mountains, of Syrian and Israeli military forces; and stationing soldiers of the Multinational Force [MFO] on the Golan in which the Americans will play a central role. According to the offer, Israel will hand over the Hermon lookout post to U.S. troops, who will use it as a chief intelligence base on the Golan.

"In the framework of the offer, the Syrians will agree that Jewish settlements remain in place and be under Syrian sovereignty, having the status of leased property." Mahanymi notes that the idea to leave settlements in place was raised by the Americans, and that Israel has not yet asked for this.

Mahanymi provides more details of the U.S. offer for security arrangements which will apparently be accepted by Syria: "Syrian armored divisions, which are currently deployed in the Damascus Basin and could shortly arrive at battle positions on the Golan Heights, will move north of the Syrian capital to permanent bases. Only infantry soldiers will be stationed in the area from east of the current border through to Damascus, and the force will include no tanks or artillery." "On the Israeli side, no artillery or tanks will be stationed in the area west of the international border on the Golan through to Zefat." The report adds that the Americans will have additional intelligence posts in several other locations on the Golan Heights; a large number of MFO troops will be stationed on the Golan to prevent it from being conquered by either side; and "the Americans will provide on-line satellite services to both parties," in which Israel will be given information on the Syrians and vice versa.

Citing the Syrian source, Mahanymi adds that Syrian Ambassador in London Muhammad Khudur "told his associates last Friday [11 June]: 'We want the Israeli settlements removed.' The Syrian ambassador—said to be behind the scenes of the Washington talks and a relative of President al-Asad, whom he occasionally briefs—"added that talk of leaving the settlements under Syrian sovereignty is 'an Israeli trial balloon.'" The report adds that "the British Foreign Office has recently contacted the Syrian ambassador asking whether Syria would be willing to lease the settlements to Israel."

Mahanymi adds: "Contrary to President al-Asad's public stand, as presented by Ambassador Khudur, HA'OLAM HAZE was told that if Israel insists that the settlements remain in place, the Syrians would be willing to accept this, in return for an Israeli announcement of a full withdrawal to the international border of June 1967." The Syrian source further says that "a Syrian agreement to leave the settlements in place might be received with great anger by the Arab world." "It may not be a bad model to solve the problem and speed up the process in the occupied territories, but there is no doubt that the Palestinians will veto such an idea. A Syrian precedent might cause a split and an explosion in the Arab camp," the Syrian source says.

Press Comments on Rabin's 'Provocative' Statements

JN1606095593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH discusses the difficult peace process and the 10th round of talks which began yesterday amid an overwhelming state of pessimism and skepticism about any possible progress. The paper notes that the talks are still stalemated because of the evasive and stubborn Israeli mentality.

AL-THAWRAH says: Barring hopes of an expected role by the U.S. sponsor, nobody should expect Israel to voluntarily pave the way for and remove the obstacles from the settlement process. Nor should anyone expect Israel to voluntarily abide by the principles of the solution in accordance with the UN and UN Security Council resolutions, which constitute the basis of a just, comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-THAWRAH believes that just like its predecessors, the Rabin government is employing a variety of deceptive techniques to evade the requirements of peace. Meanwhile, its negotiators are skillfully proposing alternatives to belittle the basic issue and legitimize the continued Israeli usurpation of Arab lands and rights. While waging the 10th round of the negotiations, the Rabin government continues to adhere to this policy which kills any hopes for peace.

AL-THAWRAH adds that when Rabin states that he cannot promise a full withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights, when he excludes Jerusalem from the negotiating process, when he refuses to recognize the Palestinian people's national rights, when he links the Israeli troops' pullout from southern Lebanon to impossible conditions, and when his army escalates terrorism and bloody suppression in the occupied territories, he is merely copying Shamir's policies which reject peace and any commitment toward the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: There will be a new failure. Unless the United States intervenes and effectively plays

the role of a neutral and fair partner, the current round of peace negotiations will be like the previous ones with all their futility and negative repercussions. Undoubtedly, U.S. failure to pressure the Rabin government into changing its behavior will make success in the 10th round difficult and peace impossible to achieve.

TISHRIN comments on Rabin's provocative statements, particularly his remarks that he will not offer any new gestures to the Palestinians and will not fully return the Golan Heights to Syria even in return for peace. The paper views such remarks as astonishing, since Rabin is behaving as if Arab land is there for greedy powers to take whatever part they choose.

TISHRIN says that Arab participation in the Madrid conference and in the subsequent Washington talks was not the result of an alleged Israeli concession, but was aimed at restoring Arab lands and rights and ending the Israeli aggression which has been continuing since 1948. The Arabs in general and Syria in particular would not have taken part in the current peace talks had it not been for the first serious U.S. initiative that is based on UN Security Council resolutions and the principle of trading land for peace in the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict. In addition, this Arab participation has been encouraged by a series of guarantees and pledges to achieve a just, comprehensive peaceful settlement on all fronts.

TISHRIN indicates that observers have interpreted Rabin's statements as being part of his continuous efforts to derail the Washington talks and contain any earnest U.S. effort to achieve a real breakthrough toward the aspired peace. At a time when the entire world is looking to see new results, Rabin explicitly declared that he does not expect anything new during the 10th round of talks.

TISHRIN explains that it is Arab rights that have been encroached on. On all occasions, the Arabs have declared readiness to precisely implement the UN Security Council resolutions and achieve the aspired peace.

TISHRIN concludes: Since the convocation of the Madrid conference and at the start of each round of talks in Washington, the Arabs have been declaring that Israeli intransigence will impede any progress. They also declared that no peace can be achieved without an effective, fair U.S. role leading to Israeli compliance with the international legitimacy and its resolutions.

Authorities Said To Release Former Ba'th Officials

JN1506094393 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Amman—AL-RA'Y—Well-informed sources report that Syrian authorities have released detainee Mujalli Nasrawin who was member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party before 1970.

Nasrawin is from the city of al-Karak [in southern Jordan]. He worked as a judge in Dayr Abu Sa'id before he became devoted to political work and moved to Damascus.

These sources said that Nasrawin, who was arrested on 13 July 1971 will arrive in Jordan within the next two days. The sources also expected the release of Dafi al-Jam'ani and Hasan al-Khatib who were arrested during the same period.

Afghanistan

Iran's Borujerdi Continues Visit, Meets Hekmatyar

LD1406194093 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Text] Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar and Borujerdi, our country's deputy foreign minister for Asia and Oceania, discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and mutual ties in Kabul today.

At the meeting Afghan Premier Golboddin Hekmatyar expressed congratulations to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his reelection as president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He expressed the hope that Afghanistan too will leave behind the present difficult period and be able to form a popular government by obtaining the people's vote.

Comments on Relations

LD1406192893 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran wants the further strengthening of friendly relations with the Islamic State of Afghanistan and is against every kind of foreign interference in its internal affairs. This was stated by esteemed 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in an interview with a BAKHTAR correspondent.

He said: The present visit by the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Afghanistan concerns the friendly relations that already existed between the jehadi leaders of Afghanistan and the Iranian Islamic Republic authorities.

He also stated: I would say that the propaganda and news that are being carried in Iranian media regarding Afghanistan are not the official views of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Borujerdi emphasized that through strengthening friendly relations with the Islamic State of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to every sort of interference by foreign countries in the internal affairs of this neighborly country. [sentence as heard] It wants the problems of Afghanistan to be solved by the Afghans themselves.

The deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that our common needs bring our two countries even closer for joint cooperation. For example, the question of repatriation of the Afghan refugees in Iran and matters related to the drive against the production and smuggling of narcotics demand close cooperation between our states.

He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready for every kind of cooperation in this area and in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. A joint Iranian, Pakistani, and Afghan commission, along with representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, is speeding up the repatriation of refugees to their country. We want close contacts with the Islamic State of Afghanistan concerning these common issues, including a drive against the production and smuggling of narcotics.

Hekmatyar Calls For 'New Phase of Brotherhood'

LD1306164893 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Dari to Afghanistan 0900 GMT 13 Jun 93

[Text] At a meeting yesterday morning, Brother Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, explained the political and military situation of the country. In his speech, Brother Hekmatyar declared: We seriously want the Afghanistan problem to be resolved through talks and understanding. We consider the continuation of fighting under any name or pretext to be absolutely detrimental to our country. We have pledged before God not to spare any sacrifice to remove the lack of security and the tension and to deliver our oppressed nation from the tension and tragedy. Brother Hekmatyar added: We have decided to open a new phase of brotherhood with anyone who is committed to Islam and his country. We want military rivalries to end for ever, and cordially request all brothers, profoundly comprehending realities, to support our position.

Commentator Welcomes Call For Start of Cabinet Work

LD1206194393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Jun 93

[Text] Esteemed Engineer Golboddin Hekmatyar, prime minister-designate of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in an interview broadcast recently by Hezb-e Eslami's [Islamic Party] Message of Freedom television, commented on the start of the work of the new cabinet as follows: We should all admit that delaying the implementation of the Jalalabad accord for 20 days at this critical juncture is a great, historic mistake. We have always made this mistake. We should have come to Kabul on the first day of the signing of the Jalalabad accord and the new cabinet should have started work. The new ministers should have assumed their new jobs and should have started work.

Living outside the country at this time and causing problems to the new cabinet under any pretext is a mistake, an historic mistake.

A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY commentator writes: The Islamic State of Afghanistan has made vehement efforts for the new cabinet to start work officially and has harmonized its efforts with all the jehadi groups for the implementation of the Jalalabad accord. The people of Afghanistan also believe that

delaying the start of the cabinet's work brought a question mark to their hopes of ensuring the peace and stopping the fighting. Now all the issues which were previously considered to be obstructions to the start of the cabinet work have been completely removed. Therefore it is necessary for the hopes of the people, the restoration of peace, and the cessation of fighting to be positively responded to by the entrance of the prime minister-designate and the cabinet into the capital of the country. The government's serious and important duties must be addressed.

Bangladesh

Communists Split Into Reform, Hard-Line Factions

BK1206073093 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 10 Jun 93 pp 1, 10

[Text] The 45-year old Communist Party of Bangladesh finally split on Wednesday [9 June] on the last day of the two-day meeting of the central committee of the party.

The split will be formally announced at two separate special council sessions to be held on June 15. Earlier party stalwarts tried to hold an unified council session.

The last meeting of the Central Committee of the unified Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) decided to split amicably.

Out of 75 members of the central committee, 50 members present at the meeting endorsed the decision, it is learnt.

After the fall of communism from Eastern Europe and collapse of the Soviet Union, a split developed among the leaders and workers of CPB.

They were ideologically divided into reformist and hardline groups and involved in bitter quarrel several times over party policy and changing of name of the organisation.

Reformist minded party President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and General Secretary Nural Islam Nahid wanted reform in party policy and programmes and change in the name of the party dropping the word communism while the hardliners presidium member Mujahidul Islam Selim insisted on carrying forward the communist ideals.

Although the reformist members are majority in the central committee, they are minority in the party rank and file, one party member commented saying "so the reformist took the decision before the special council session scheduled to be held on June 15."

Both the reformist and hardline leaders were tight-lipped to comment on the outcome of the meeting as well as the division of the party when they were asked by the journalists shortly after the meeting.

A Press release issued after the meeting, however, said that the meeting in a resolution had felt that an opportunity should be created for workers to take their own position and proceed according to their own wish and thinking.

The meeting observed that it had become impossible for the party to play its due role in the national politics because of differences of opinion on basic issues like, party's character and ideology among the party leaders.

"If such situation is continuing for a long time, it is feared that workers will either be inactive or turn their back to the party", the meeting pointed out in the resolution.

"So it is desireable to proceed in a peaceful way in such situation in a bid to uphold the long tradition and image of the party and to maintain friendship and cordiality", the meeting said.

The meeting in the resolution admitted that the party had been split since the last congress over the party policy and two factions had failed to work unitedly.

Meanwhile, Mujahidul Islam Selim, leader of hardline group said: "The attempt to abolish the aim, ideals and existence of the Communist Party of Bangladesh has been foiled. It is a victory of communists as well as toiling people of the country. The Communist Party of Bangladesh has come to stay and will stay".

Two factions of the CPB will hold separate special council sessions on June 15 and seek endorsement from the rank and file of their followers, party sources said.

The last meeting of CPB Central Committee agreed to share the assets of the unified party according to the decision by a four-man committee formed earlier.

The committee, with two members from each faction, has been constituted to audit the party assets to ensure equal share for the conflicting groups. Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Shekhar Dutt represented the reformist faction in the committee while the hardiners are represented by Mujahidul Islam Selim and Sunil Roy.

According to sources in both factions, the party assets include its central office on 28-decimal land at Purana Paltan, a printing and computer centre along with the weekly Ekota, a major share in the Jatiya Shahitya Prakashani, a book publishing and trading house, and several acres of land in Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal, Comilla and Rangpur.

Besides, the party has Taka 60 lakh in cash deposited with banks. According to a leader, the party owns assets in cash and kind worth approximatly Taka 18 crore.

Earlier, the party earned Taka 50 lakh by selling a piece of land in the city's Motijheel Commercial Area in 1988.

The CPB came to own these assets over the years mainly through donations from dedicated party leaders, workers and sympathisers.

Split Formalized

BK1506135693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1313 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Dhaka, June 15 (AFP)—Reformists and hardliner Bangladeshi communists formally split Tuesday [15 June] by holding separate sessions.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh earlier this month divided up their cash and property, including the party building which they split in two with a dividing wall.

The faction led by Manzurul Ahsan Khan and Mujahidul Islam Selim have pledged to uphold Marxism-Leninsim, their guiding principle for the past 45 years.

The reformist group is led by Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Nurul Islam Nahid, and has taken a more liberal line following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

India

Rao Returns From Oman, Cancels Visit to Yemen

BK1606091493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] India and Oman have agreed for joint cooperation in the oil and energy sectors and have reaffirmed their support for the construction of two joint sector oil refineries in India and a gas pipeline from Oman. Omani oil and natural gas will be the main source of supply to the refineries, the pipeline project, and the fertilizer plant to be set up in Oman. This has been stated in a joint statement issued today in Muscat at the end of the prime minister Mr. Narasimha Rao's two-day visit to Oman. The statement says the gas pipeline project, in particular, represents a major development in bilateral economic cooperation in the context of strong and traditional relations between India and Oman. The construction of the pipeline will be provide a suitable source of energy to meet India's growing demand. The leaders of the two countries discussed regional and international matters, including the West Asia peace talks, and expressed their support for the peace process.

Earlier, the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, left Muscat for home after his two-day official visit to Oman. He was seen off at the airport by the Omani deputy prime minister, Sa'id Fahd Bin-Mahmud. The prime minister told Oman TV that his visit has opened a new chapter in Indo-Oman relations. In an interview telecast last night, he said there is immense possibility for Oman to benefit from the liberalized Indian economy.

Our correspondent reports from Muscat that the secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. K. Srinivasan, is now carrying Mr. Narasimha Rao's letter for the prime minister of Yemen. The letter explains why he could not visit that country. The prime minister has since returned to Delhi from Muscat.

Defendant in Stock Swindle Claims Rao Accepted Bribe

BK1606113493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1127 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Bombay, June 16 (AFP)— Harshad Mehta, the main accused in a stock swindle which rocked Indian share markets, accused Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on Wednesday [16 June] of accepting a 10 million rupee (333,333 dollar) bribe.

The allegation was levelled at a news conference held here by the controversial Bombay Stock Exchange broker and his lawyer, Ram Jethmalini.

Mehta, 40, said the money was handed over to the prime minister in November 1991.

The Bombay stockbroker is accused of masterminding the 1.3 billion dollar financial scam which led to a crash on Indian stock markets in April 1992.

Party Spokesman Reacts

BK1606124193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] The Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, has denied reports appearing in a section of the press that the prime minister had met stockbroker Harshad Mehata in November 1991. Talking to reporters in New Delhi today, he said these reports are baseless. Replying to a question, Mr. Gadgil said there is a definite attempt by some parties to create political destabilization in the country. He said whenever some parties have no issue to fight, they have been raising the issue of curruption. He said wild allegations, malicious propaganda, and innuendos are all parts of the attempts at political destabilization. The Congress-I spokesman questioned the credibility of stockbroker Harshad Mehta who, he said, had failed to give details to the joint parliamentary committee and the investigating agencies.

Five Militants, Eight Others Killed in Kashmir

BK1506161493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] In Kashmir valley, 13 persons, including five militants, were killed in the last 24 hours. Security forces arrested 16 militants and recovered 11 AK-type rifles and a large number of ammunition during search operations. Giving details of the incidents, an official spokesman said in Srinagar this afternoon that two of the militants were killed at Damhal, Hanjipura; and one each in Panchgam, Kupawara; (Zuhama), Baramula; and near Iqbal Park, Srinagar. Three security force personnel and two civilians were also killed and seven injured when militants hurled a grenade and fired on a security vehicle at Dal Gate yesterday.

In Punjab, 11 militants have been killed in separate encounters with security forces since last night. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, four militants were killed in Ropar, three in Amritsar, and two each in Kapurthala and Mansa districts.

Pakistan Said Behind Counterfeit Currency in Kashmir

BK1506133493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Security forces in the Kashmir valley have come across attempts by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence [ISI] to circulate fake currency notes. A Lebanese national apprehended by the security forces is reported to have given the information that the fake currency is being printed at the Abbasi camp in Pakistan- occupied Kashmir. ISI later hands over the fake currency to Pakistan-trained militants to carry out terrorist acts in the valley. There are also reports of a large number of mercenaries being smuggled into the valley from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Three of these mercenaries were killed in an encounter with the security forces at (Vilgam) in Kupwara District.

In Jammu and Kashmir, militants shots dead three Muslims in separate incidents on Sunday [13 June]. The incidents happened in Badgam, Baramula, and Srinagar Districts. An unidentified body was recovered from Kupwara District.

Commentary Notes Features of Prithvi Missile

BK1506124293 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Commentary by A.C. Pandyan, bureau chief of DEVELOPMENT NEWS SERVICE]

[Text] India's medium-range surface-to-surface missile Prithvi was fired on 12 June in its full operational mode with an enhanced range. The 11th launch of the 350-km range missile, which was test fired over high seas, accomplished all mission requirements with an accurate impact over a predetermined range traced by radars of naval warships. This launch was the first from the production batch and has used land-based mobile launcher and mobile control. The Prithvi missiles are already in production at Bharat Dynamics, Hyderabad, which is the prime production agency in partnership with Hindustan Aeronautics, ordnance factories, Bharat Electricals, Bharat Earthmovers Limited, and a number of other public and private sector units.

The successful test firing of the missile would herald under trial of the missile with the Army the idea to have a ballistic missile system conceived by defense experts in the early eighties, keeping in view the regional security aspects. The first experimental flight named PO-1 took place on 28 February 1988. For the Defense Research and Development Organization, DRDO, which undertook this experimental flight, it is a major success as it tested the propulsion guidance and the control aspects in the single flight as against the three planned flights which would have checked each system separately. The missile, which can carry a payload of nearly one ton, has an on-board computer to perform inertial navigation. In inertial navigation system, the computer reads the topography of the area over which the missile is flying and changes its flight as per the changes in the layout of the ground. It can correct its flight even if the engine has burnt out. This missile system can store a number of automated commands to change the flight path so as to evade the Patriot system missiles and take on to different targets. The missile system excels over other comparable missile systems with respect to the circular error probability, also with just 100 to 150-200 meters of other systems. That is, it will not miss the target by more than a difference of 100 meters. The missiles use a liquid propellant consisting of 50 percent (axiligence), and the balance of 3-D (Lemine) and nitric acid used as an oxide. The missile system is loaded with a fuel which has a shelf life of five years and without the propellant fuel, its life is 25 years. The Prithvi missile has the capability to destroy concrete structure and it has tremendous lethal powers to destroy targets. The kind of targets which battlefield support missiles like Prithvi are likely to engage include large military bases and airfields, troop staging areas, and industrial facilities like oil depots.

Acquisition of such missiles is likely to add to the national deterrence potential because of the deep strike penetrability. India's both neighbors—China and Pakistan—have acquired similar missile capability to counter India's missile potential. China is also exporting missiles like M-11 to Pakistan which with its 600-km range gives it a longer range than Prithvi. Pakistan has also commenced development of HATF-2 missile which has a range of 300 km. We, therefore, have a classic case of pragmatic deterrence where India develops missiles to deter its hostile neighbor.

Iran

Velayati Departs for Visit to Hungary

LD1506075293 Tehran IRNA in English 0538 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 15, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left here for Budapest, Hungary, on a two-day official visit Tuesday [15 June] morning.

The visit is taking place at the invitation of his Hungarian counterpart Geza Jeszenszky.

On the objective of his visit, Velayati told IRNA before departure that he will exchange views with Hungarian top-ranking officials on Tehran-Budapest bilateral relations and major international and regional developments, the regretful situation in the Balkans in particular.

He is also to discuss the procedure of concluding an agreement on bilateral cultural cooperation and road transportation between the two countries.

Commentary Criticizes U.S. Actions in Somalia

LD1506173693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1013 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] While U.S. forces continue periodic attacks against the positions of General Farah Aidid in Somalia, political circles are asking if the operational command of the forces based in Somalia has been designated to the United Nations and on what basis Washington initiated the operations. A few days ago, at a ceremony marking the return of American Marines from Somalia, U.S. President Bill Clinton officially announced the end of his country's mission to Somalia. But the actions of the U.S. Government this week contradict Clinton's statements.

Here, we do not intend to study the cause of the conflict between Aidid's forces and the United Nations and do not wish to identify the principal guilty partner; nevertheless, it is important to ask that if the elements responsible for clashing with the UN forces deserve punishment, who is to execute the punishment, and what type of punishment this will be. Although in the 13 June Security Council resolution regarding Somalia there was no explicit mention of the mechanism to deal with those responsible for the death of the UN Blue Helmets, political circles believed that since the United Nations has the command of the operations in Somalia it would itself conduct any action in this regard.

But the land and air operations by the American rapid deployment forces have drawn a line through this theory. Although America has handed the command of the Somali operations to the United Nations, the existing factors indicate that Washington has not accepted the transfer of a part of its forces to the UN command. Also, the American influence in the command establishment in Somalia has created the opportunity for Washington to act directly in Somalia whenever it sees fit. Military movements in the early parts of the previous week strengthened this theory that, should it be necessary, America will independently carry out operations in Somalia and will take no account of the plans for noninterference in Somalia and the transfer of the responsibilities to the United Nations. In the early parts of the week, the continuous attacks by American planes has proved and clarified the point that changes in the American leaders, including the stepping aside of George Bush and the coming to power of Bill Clinton, the Democrat, has not significantly changed the execution of the above scenario.

Furthermore, the recent actions of the politicians at the White House reveal that there is a united view on Somalia in the White House, which intends to enter operations around the world under the pretext of the United Nations and to protect its own interests. As indicated in the earlier documentary, the American ruling establishment and the members of the UN Security Council should now answer this question: Which is more important, an attack on Serbian forces to end the killing of the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina or attacks on the Aidid headquarters and residential areas in Somalia and creating a bloodbath of demonstrations in Mogadishu?

Need Seen To Reform 'Passive' Foreign Policy

NC1406105093 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 2 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "Foreign Policy Needs Reform"]

[Text] Recent remarks by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher again show that in pursuing its objectives on Iran, America has attached more hope than ever to the extensive use of diplomacy and propaganda. America's hostile policy toward Iran has intensified in the past few years despite efforts by our foreign policy to amend its stances; it seems the White House feels that by resorting to more extensive political-propaganda activities, it can achieve a more passive foreign policy from us.

Experience in the past couple of years clearly shows the United States does not want Iran to continue an international life free from political problems. We would be naive to maintain the contradictions in our foreign policy, something that has yielded no result.

Today, the need for reform in our foreign policy is very obvious and we should seriously admit that it is our contradictory stance that has changed our foreign policy from active to passive. What need is there for us to try to calmly face problems? Our great problem in our foreign policy is the absence of a correct analysis of the regional situation and of international affairs. Undoubtedly, continuing this process will make problems more acute.

Our regional policy has been plunged into ambiguity and it is impossible to portray a clear picture of it. Insistence on a series of general principles solves nothing. True, the principle of the foreign policy of the Islamic revolution and system of Iran is expanding relations with neighboring countries and Muslims, creating conditions for the stability of regional security, and preventing crisis-creating plots hatched by the big powers. But our foreign policy tactics in relation with all these should not accept any passive views. We should not think the meaning of logical reaction in the dictionary of politics is an attempt to create confusion in political relations. Realities in foreign relations should be used as a yardstick for decisions and policymaking. We cannot delineate the framework of foreign policy by resorting to propaganda ideas and ideals.

The governments ruling over some Persian Gulf countries are only working toward the strategic objectives of America and Israel and lack the least bit of independent

political will. Ignoring this reality not only creates problems, but is also very regrettable. When the Saudi Government compiled its political-cultural policies within the framework of America's main objectives in the region, what positive results can a political investment in relations with such a country yield? Iran is an Islamic, important, and influential country internationally. To safeguard its political independence, it should invest in relations with countries that have an independent political will. Otherwise, it will be disgraced, which does not become a Muslim nation.

Our grandeur and respect lie in independence. Our nation has suffered for many years to achieve this grandeur and respect. It does not deserve such disgraceful approaches in foreign policy. This is the framework within which we should compile our tactics.

What was the outcome of Dr. Velayati's recent visit to the region? What has the ridiculing by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates cost our prestige? Hasn't the time come for us to act from our powerful and righteous stance in our relations and in our political approaches? If today Christopher alleges that to punish Iran and decrease its anti-American feeling, Iran should face political isolation, it is because he thinks the Iranian Government has weakened in its foreign policy. What is the benefit of having or not having relations with subservient governments like Saudi Arabia's, which America uses today to inflict pressure on us? Naturally, these are the issues that have made the White House capitalize on such activities.

Iran has had no problem establishing logical political-economic relations with independent governments and countries. Because of Iran's strength on the international scene and its steadfast political steps, many conservative governments have shown more interest in establishing relations. But this trend has unfortunately decreased recently because of our passive stance. Either we have not exploited the strong points of this process or there has been American pressure.

Not so long ago, the very governments and shaykhs that now muster the courage to rise up against us would beg to meet one of our deputy foreign ministers and repeatedly sent messages to us on this. But today we see the situation has changed. Why? Our nation still enjoys steadfast and dynamic anti-American and anti-Zionist feeling and the general spirit of our Islamic system is the negation of these satanic powers. Revolution leader His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i has repeatedly emphasized this policy. Why should our foreign policy be drawn into such passivity? Undoubtedly, if we attempt no reform in our policies and stances, we must suffer more damage.

Christopher and the White House politicians too worry more than anything else about Iran's anti-American policy. With their efforts and propaganda, they want to make us and our Islamic system sorry for continuing such policies. This is the wrong way to think, because anti-American feeling and sentiment will continue not only in Iran, but in all the Islamic countries. As long as the spirit of the imam's ideas lives on in the heart of every Muslim, the slogan of death to America will be heard everywhere, unless America makes true changes in its policies, stances, and foreign policy strategies. But everyone in society knows this is an unrealistic and optimistic idea. Attaching hope to a change in American policy on Iran by resorting to diplomatic levers is extremely naive.

U.S. 'Tactics' Viewed

NC1306092293 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 3 Jun 93 pp 1, 9

[Editorial: "America's New Policies and Our Positions"]

[Text] Political experts, foreign policy watchers, journalists, and political analysts in the United States all point to the emergence of new U.S. positions on Iran, describing this as an analytical development. In a recent report, THE NEW YORK TIMES expressed the belief that the U.S. Administration is preparing for special efforts aimed at weakening Iran. This effort is based on a plan calling for a general revision of U.S. foreign policy on Iran and on the view that the international isolation of Iran is a necessity.

The general outline of these new U.S. policies may be seen in the remarks by Martin Indyk [special assistant on Near East and South Asian affairs], who said: We should try to bring about a change in Iranian behavior and make it lean toward the West. Otherwise, in 5 years' time Iran will become a completely militant power against Israel and the United States in the Middle East.

This policy of the U.S. agenda is based on a pivotal analytical point and on a series of tactics that will help achieve the main objective. Western analysts believe that the strength of fundamentalism in Iran is diminishing and that because of this other trends are emerging. They believe that if the United States and the West can accelerate the process that will reduce the strength of Islamic fundamentalism in its major hearth, Iran, and defeat this experience, then the inevitable defeat of Islamic fundamentalism in other places will be easier. It is on the basis of this analysis that the West and especially the United States is trying to exploit the new situation in order to increase their pressures on Iran, to back Iran into a corner, and to achieve a gradual change in Islamic policies. And all this stems from the special characteristics that can be seen in Iran's foreign policy.

The major tactics that are being used are:

1. Extensive propaganda to show Iran's threat in the three fields of arms, terrorism, and international relations;

2. Resorting to diplomatic games to achieve a passive Iranian position in foreign policy and to impose a series of decisions which will lead to the weakening of Iran's international presence;

3. Planning for economic pressure and using cultural and social levers to create instability, disillusionment, and discord inside Iran;

4. Planning to create conservative trends inside the system and also planning to strengthen and to organize the political opposition since a confrontation of these forces inside the country may become an important element in creating political and economic instability.

In view of the above, it is easy to realize the fact that in order to thwart U.S. objectives, we should review our policies in all fields and especially our economic, foreign, and cultural policies. Fearing political isolation should not weaken our steadfastness in our political dealings which have been so effective in the past. Also, i our attempt to achieve economic objectives our actions should not become a weak point in our political dealings. But our economic policies are being implemented in such a way today that hopes for cultural infiltration are strengthened, and the possibility of pressures on us once our economy is linked with the economy of multinational corporations is also increased. Preserving our full economic independence and not fearing problems that stem from this independence are basic and major elements and levers. However, we have neglected to alert the people and use their participation in various political and social affairs even in a small way in the past few years.

Delegation to Vienna Meeting To Offer Proposals

LD1506232993 Tehran IRNA in English 1935 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Vienna, June 15, IRNA—The Iranian delegation to the current international Vienna conference on human rights would offer proposals to the conference with the ultimate objectives to prevent human rights abuse as well as international double-standard attitudes towards observing such rights.

Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Javad Zarif who is also head of the Iranian delegation, made the remark in an interview with Iranian journalists who are here to cover the event.

He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran's stand towards human rights issues "is clear and unique", a stand which considered observance of human rights as a religious duty.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, based on Islamic rules, believed in the importance of human rights and the need for the observance of such rights in all communities and for international supervison over its implementation.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran also believes that not only all people are bound to observe human rights but that every individual is responsible for its sound implementation," Zarif stressed.

Referring to political and propagative reasons behind the attitude Western countries have adopted towards human rights issue, the Iranian official noted that "today efforts are underway at international level to turn the question of human rights into a tools for exerting political pressures."

Commentary Criticizes Western Standards

LD1506150893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1001 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] At the initiative of the United Nations, the world conference on human rights began its proceedings yesterday. The conference, the preliminary work for which started four years ago, is the high point of efforts by the UN system to strengthen and expand human rights. More than 160 governments, a number of nongovernmental organizations, and UN-related organizations and institutes are represented at the world conference on human rights, which is taking place in Austria for 11 days.

Following the approval of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights 45 years ago and at the time of the third UN secretary general, the first human rights conference was held in Tehran. The world conference on human rights, unprecedented in the past 25 years, is now held on the basis of UN General Assembly resolutions.

Prior to this conference and in regional gatherings, Asian governments in Thailand, African governments in Tunisia, and South American and Caribbean governments in San Jose discussed the various dimensions of human rights and expressed their own views. These views which reflect the sensitivities of the UN member-countries and the experiences of the UN-related organizations and institutions as well as the existing shortcomings in strengthening human rights are the basis for the works of the conference.

The existing situation, its achievements and shortcomings in the need to strengthen and expand human rights, are to be discussed at the Vienna conference. Also on the conference agenda are the identification of the obstacles in the path of strengthening and expanding human rights and the means of preventing human rights violations.

Meanwhile, the most important issue of the conference is the guarantee for effective and practical respect for human rights. A number of countries are planning to place the violation of human rights within the context of the threat to international peace and security and thus within the jurisdiction and authority of the UN Security Council.

Also, there has been no discussion of the most obvious cases in human rights violations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. While members of remote African and Latin American tribes are allowed to demonstrate at the conference venue, the helpless Bosnian victims have not even been allowed to hold demonstrations near the conference hall.

Westerners accuse developing countries of resisting the so-called global wave of human rights. But the Indonesian foreign minister has stated that according to UN documents the developing countries oppose the imposition of Western standards of human rights. Through a new interpretation of international peace and security, Westerners intend to portray the violation of human rights, on their own standards, as a threat to international peace and security and place it within the jurisdiction of the UN Security Council.

Towards this end, the American delegation has proposed the creation of the human rights high commissioner. Developing countries look at this view with suspicion and ambiguity and the independence of this institution is completely doubted. On this basis and in criticism of this proposal the Malaysian delegate states: Can the human rights high commissioner be expected to follow cases of human rights violations against the United Nations or about religious and ethnic minorities in America, Canada, and European countries?

The UN human rights commission has repeatedly dispatched representatives to Asian, African, and Latin American countries to inspect the conditions of human rights but has yet to send a representative to Western countries or America to inspect the cases of human rights violations. Although there is a long way before the end of the conference, developing countries are seriously defending the stance based on their own culture, religion, and realistic socio-economic requirements. This important issue is expected to become a reality with the active participation of the representatives from the developing countries in the committee responsible for drawing up the final conference document.

Opposition Sends Memo

JN1606082993 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jun 93

[All Iranian names as heard]

[Text] The Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq has called on the world conference on human rights to adopt binding resolutions and rules to prevent the Iranian regime's crimes both inside and outside Iran.

A statement issued by the organization in Paris today said that the organization's leader Mas'ud Rajavi has sent a memorandum to the world conference on human rights describing the Iranian regime as topping the list of those who violate human rights and democracy in the modern world.

The memorandum said the Tehran regime had committed the ugliest crimes of murder and torture during the 14 years it has ruled Iran, and had executed more than 100,000 individuals and jailed more than 150,000 others, who have been subjected to various forms of torture.

The leader of the National Resistance Council referred to the assassination of representatives and activists of the resistance by the Iranian regime, including the assassination of Professor Qasim Rajavi in Geneva in April 1990; the kidnapping and torturing of Akbar Qurbani in Turkey in June 1992; the assassination of Mohammed Hoseyn Naqdi, the Council's representative in Italy in March 1993; and the assassination of Mohammed Hasan Arbab, a Mojahedin-e Khalq member in Pakistan in June 1993. He also referred to the Iranian regime's violation of Security Council Resolution 598 by the shelling of Iraqi territory.

Concluding his memorandum, Mas'ud Rajavi said the Iranian people and resistance urge the United Nations and Security Council to adopt specific and practical measures to put an end to the continued human rights violations in Iran, and to bring to trial the leaders of this anti-Islamic regime at an international court for its crimes against humanity.

Rajavi urged the world conference on human rights to adopt binding resolutions in preparation for taking practical measures against the Iranian regime.

Commentary Discusses 'Political Crisis' in Azerbaijan

NC1406075793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Commentary from the "In the Margin of the News" feature prepared by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Reports from Azerbaijan in the past few days indicate that this newly independent country is in the wake of important political developments. The political crisis in Azerbaijan started when a high-ranking officer in the republic occupied Gyandzha, the second city in the republic, and called for the political leaders to resign. Recently, the forces under his command occupied another city and thus increased pressure on the government.

Efforts by President Abulfaz Elchibey and resigned Prime Minister Panakh Guseynov to crush Surat Guseynov's movement in Gyandzha, which left several people dead or wounded, caused the situation to deteriorate so much that Panakh Guseynov and Isa Kamberov, chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet, had to resign in response to demands by the rebel forces.

Interesting is the reemergence of Geydar Aliyev, president of Nakhichevan and veteran politician, who has apparently seized the reins of the political processes in

Baku in the past week and pushed President Abulfaz Elchibey into the margin. Political observers believe that Aliyev, who had kept apart from domestic political conflicts and is Azerbaijan's most popular politician, enjoys the support of the rebel general [as heard] and may also become the pivot of Azerbaijan's domestic policy soon.

A condition put forward by Surat Guseynov, who heads the rebel forces in Gyandzha, is that the president should resign. It is said that among the motives behind Guseynov's attempt in occupying Gyandzha was the corruption of the Baku government, its inability to solve the Karabakh conflict, and its consecutive defeats in the war and in economic reforms.

When the People's Front came to power and Elchibey was appointed president, it was announced that the Karabakh problem would be solved within three months and that economic reforms would be speedily implemented. Several months later none of these promises has been fulfilled; while the people of Azerbaijan have suffered national denigration in the war with the Armenians, they also face economic difficulties. Promises by the People's Front to open up the political atmosphere and create democratic institutions have not been fulfilled.

Although the week of efforts by Nakhichevan President Geydar Aliyev to solve the crisis has yielded no specific result, it is said that he has neared his main objective—replacing Isa Kamberov as chairman of the parliament. This is very significant for Aliyev, since he intends to pave the grounds for fundamental political change in Azerbaijan by forming the Supreme Soviet; the authority to form a Supreme Soviet will be granted to him only when he chairs parliament.

Since all aspects of developments in Azerbaijan and the roles played by the various political groups in developments in the republic are not clear, incidents cannot be foreseen. One fact should be considered: the People's Front has lost its popular backing and much of its popularity among the people of Azerbaijan because of its many mistakes and its inability to tell the country's friends from its foes. The Front is facing acute problems in continuing its political rule; these will not be easy to overcome.

Daily Expresses Concern

LD1606130193 Tehran IRNA in English 1120 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES Wednesday [16 June] in its editorial expressed concern over the current events in Azerbaijan and said Iran should employ all possible means to prevent outbreak of a "devastating civil war" in the republic.

Referring to the ongoing clashes in Azerbaijan and the city of Gyandzha, the second largest city of the republic, the paper warned that the events of the past week in Gyandzha seem to be leading to a "fundamental development" in the country.

Pointing to long borders of Iran with the republic, the paper said there was very little doubt that the situation in Azerbaijan was in "close relationship with the security inside the Iranian territories."

The editorial referred to the re-emergence of Geydar Aliyev on the political scene in the republic and said political observers believe that in light of his lengthy experiences in local and international affairs, there was a hope that Aliyev might be able to "avert the catastrophe" in Azerbaijan.

Recalling Iran's goodwill showen through its mediatory efforts to restore peace and stability to the Caucasian region, the paper in conclusion recommended that Tehran should again use all means to prevent outbreak of a devastating civil war in the republic.

President Meets With Farmers, Praises Efforts

LD1406095293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Excerpts] To mark the day of reconstruction jihad President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today met the minister of reconstruction jihad and a number of model farmers and tribal members involved in the production of farming products.

The president thanked them for their efforts to achieve self-sufficiency in the country's food production and emphasized that the government wished to improve the living conditions of the deprived classes and to provide social justice for the people.

In the meeting the president said the farmers and tribes were content and productive hardworkers of the country and added: Last year the farmers and tribes produced more than 5.5 million tonnes of animal products, which is a significant increase in comparison to the previous years, and this effort is strategic and fundamental.

The president said: The government's future plans for farming and animal husbandry are important, and we hope not only to provide the necessary foreign exchange for farming, husbandry, and fishing sectors, but to have surplus exchange and an active presence in world markets.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the necessity of maintaining direct contact between the producer and consumer and said the government encouraged the farmers and tribes to bring them the fruit of their labor. The establishment of rural cooperatives and chain stores across the country that would be in direct contact with the producers could help this matter significantly.

The president called on the farmers and tribes to continue their efforts toward the achievement of agricultural

independence in the country and he hoped that in the second development plan a reasonable living standard will be achieved for the rural and deprived people and that the social justice targeted by the government will be implemented properly.

Finally Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said being grateful to the model farmers and tribal members was being grateful to all those involved in farming and the production of animal products in society.

He also expressed thanks for the efforts of the reconstruction jihad in the development of villages, the war years, and the years of reconstruction.

He wished success for the members of the reconstruction jihad, farmers, and tribal members.

At the ceremony the president also presented prizes to the model farmers and tribal members involved in the production of food products. [passage omitted]

Law Enforcement Chief on Drugs, Kidnapping Rumors

LD1406104793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Excerpt] Brigadier General [Reza] Seyfollahi, commander of the Law enforcement forces, took part in a news conference this morning at which he spoke about the forces' activities.

According to our reporter, Brig. Gen. Seyfollahi described as positive the activities of the law enforcement forces during the ceremonies commemorating the fourth anniversary of the demise of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to paradise, and the elections for the sixth term of the presidency, and said: The forces were able to shoulder these grave responsibilities with honor.

Brig. Gen. Seyfollahi then spoke about 26 June, international antinarcotics day, and described the forces' achievements in this area as unprecedented during the past and current years. He said: Last year [ending 20 March 1993], 63 tonnes of narcotics were uncovered; this year, 13 tonnes and 540 kg of narcotics had been uncovered by 10 June and the people responsible have been arrested.

He also spoke about the law enforcement forces' attempts to prevent the entry of narcotics into the country and the use of the country as a point of transit. He said this involves intelligence work and cooperation with the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in discovering drug smuggling convoys.

In connection with the recent publication of rumors by the enemies of Islam about the kidnapping of children, which had caused anxiety among the people, Brig. Gen. Seyfollahi said: As a result of our investigations and efforts, we have obtained certain clues, and an agent of the hypocrites [the Mojahedin-e Khalq] who has been arrested has confessed to spreading such rumors among the people. He asked people to be vigilant in the face of such rumors and ploys. [passage omitted]

More on Tehran Arrest

LD1406170293 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—A member of the outlawed Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) was arrested here, an official said Monday [14 June].

The chief of the law enforcement agencies, General Reza Seyfollahi, said the arrested person has confessed that he was commissioned by MKO to spread panic and terror among the citizens.

The MKO member has admitted to have propagated rumours in such public places as buses, cinemas and parks and through his anonymous phone calls to the families of students and to the schools principals, Seyfollahi added.

He did not say when the MKO member was arrested. Seyfollahi called on families and the Iranian nation to be fully alert when encountering such rumours to obviate their children's psychological and mental stress.

Rumours spread here shortly before the 6th presidential elections (held last Friday) on kidnapping of students by a "clandestine group." The rumor created some insecurity, and at times paranoia, on the part of some families regarding the safety of their children.

Source Denies MKO Claim of Attack on Abadan Refinery

LD1106220593 Tehran IRNA in English 1203 GMT 11 Jun 93

[Text] Abadan, Khuzestan Prov., June 11, IRNA—An informed source at the Abadan Governorate today categorically denied a claim of bombing at the oil refinery of this southern port city. A statement released by the outlawed Mujahideen Khalq [Mojahedin-e Khalq] Organization (MKO) Friday [11 June]morning claimed that MKO terrorists had attacked four Iranian border points, including Abadan's oil refinery.

An oil refinery spokesman in an interview with IRNA refuted the MKO allegation as a "sheer lie." He said the MKO claim was aimed at overshadowing the massive turn-out of the local people in the 6th presidential elections which started at the port city Friday morning.

MKO Issues Statement on Presidential Election

NC1506152493 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1800 GMT 14 Jun 93

[Excerpts] The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] has issued a statement on the regime's presidential elections. The statement says: The Khomeyni regime's

radio claimed that the number of total votes counted was more than 16 million, of which only 10 million went to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The MKO spokesman commented on the statistics announced by the regime, saying:

1. The fact is that of the number of votes cast, only [words indistinct] went to Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

2. The number of those who voted [words indistinct]. It may be noted that in last year's elections, the regime announced that 30 million were eligible to vote. This year the regime's interior minister announced that only 29 million were eligible to vote.

3. Therefore, according to the statistics announced by the regime, more than 68 percent of eligible voters affirmed the failure of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's performance.

4. During the previous presidential election, the Khomeyni regime announced that 54 percent of the votes went to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. But according to the figures given by the Interior Ministry, despite all the fraudulent practices, this year only 31 percent of the votes went to Hashemi-Rafsanjani. [passage omitted]

What has amazed political observers and correspondents is not the reelection of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, but the marked decrease in the level of the people's support for him. The BBC has described the position of the regime's president as, quote, precariously perched on the precipice of his downfall, end quote. The BBC added: The results of the elections and the low voter turnout not only indicate a (?decline in the popularity) of Hashemi-Rafsanjani, but the figures cited also are smaller than the exaggerated claims of the regime. The BBC commented on the mounting pessimism regarding the regime, saying: These elections indicate the Iranian people's increasing pessimism. The BBC then warned the vestiges of the Khomeyni regime that this low voter turnout should not be taken lightly and said: Observers consider the election results further proof of the dwindling (?popularity) of the Islamic system in Iran. Circumstances are too sensitive for the results of the elections to be declared a defeat. [passage omitted]

Yesterday's political commentary by the Iranian regime's radio attributed the low turnout to voter complacency and said this is due to the peaceful situation in the country. The radio said: The people were less interested in the elections because of the peace and stability in the country. The fallacious commentary did not hesitate to claim that the elections were held in (?peaceful) conditions.

The regime's interior minister spoke about the widespread participation in the elections and declared them a grand and wonderful occasion for the country. He said that there were more voters in this year's election than the previous one. Commenting further, however, he let his guard down and admitted foolishly that the people did not participate extensively due to the security situation in the country, and said: Voter turnout has been large only when the people have sensed that the revolution is in danger. If the voter turnout was lower this time, it means that the people are confident about the future!

One must inform this foolish cleric that the people certainly are confident about the future—when the Khomeyni regime will be swept out at the hands of the National Liberation Army! [passage omitted]

Nepal

Exports Rise by 37 Percent in First Half of Year

BK1606065093 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 8 Jun 93 p 1

[Text] Kathmandu, June 7:- The overall Nepalese trade scenario has shown a positive trend during the first six months of the current fiscal year. The exports of major commodities increased by 37 per cent while the imports grew by only 7 per cent with exports dominating imports in total terms.

According to Trade Promotion Centre, Nepal exported 1579,680 square metres of carpets worth Rs.[rupees] 4809.7 million from July 1992 - January 1993.

The exports of carpets during the same period in 1991-92 stood at Rs. 3204.3 million.

Likewise, the exports of readymade garments marked an increase to Rs. 1483.3 million as against Rs. 1141.7 million during the same period last year.

Ironically, Nepal has a list of 14 commodities known as major overseas exportables. These include goat skin, hides, niger seeds, pulses and handicrafts. Rut these products have not been able to find a substantial place in the overseas market.

However, Nepal's overseas exports in the first six months of 1992-93, earmarked an increase of Rs. 7092.7 million as against Rs. 5154.6 million in 1991-92. The exports of carpets and readymade garments during 1990-91 earned Rs. 3701.9 million and Rs. 1343.5 million while the figures substantially rose to the tune of Rs. 7130.9 million and Rs. 3112 million during 1991-92.

Likewise, overall national exports in 1991-92 marking an unprecedented change in value by 114 per cent. Likewise, overseas imports of major commodities during the first six months of the current fiscal year rose to 6913 million rupees as against 6440 million rupees during 1991-92.

Nepal imported raw wool worth 843 million rupees in the fiscal year 1992-93 which was worth 1040 million rupees in 1991-92. This marked a negative growth in value by 18 per cent. Overall imports dropped considerably during the first six months of 1992-93 as against the same period in 1991-92.

However the imports of aircraft spare parts increased to 275 million rupees from 66 million rupees marking a rise of 313 per cent.

Other commodities whose imports grew substantially are office equipment and stationary, chemicals [as published] while telecommunication equipment shot up incredibly from 12 million rupees to 213 million rupees marking a rise of 1635 per cent.

The import of fertilizers dropped to 211 million rupees from 445 million rupees. However, the total imports during the first six months of 1992-93 rose by 7 per cent compared to the imports in the first six months of 1991-92. Imports from overseas during 1991-92 soared by 26 per cent to 1844.9 million rupees from 1453 million rupees. Machineries and parts dropped by 51 per cent from 1907 million in 1990-91 to 935 million rupees in 1991-92.

However, the total imports of fertilizer in both respective fiscal years hiked to the amount of 1294 million rupees from 940 million rupees. Construction materials worth 406 million rupees were imported as against 234 million rupees in 1990-91.

Imports of raw wool went up by 64 per cent compared to 1226 million rupees in 1990-91.

While POL [Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants] products increased to 3341 million rupees from the previous mark of 1602 million rupees. Two other products of imports which increased are milk products and industrial raw materials.

The first rose by 422 per cent to the tune of 167 million rupees from 32 million rupees and the latter by 315 per cent to the figure of 978 million rupees from 235 million rupees.

Rightist Democratic Party Urges Royal Leadership

BK1506140293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1337 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Kathmandu, June 15 (AFP)—The rightist democratic Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP National Democratic Party) concluded a four day national convention voicing "the urgent need of the King's active leadership," a party source said Tuesday [15 June].

The RPP re-elected S.B. Thapa as its president and called for the active royal role "for the protection of democracy and the national sovereignty," the source said.

In its foreign policy resolution, the RPP vowed to "strictly follow a non-aligned foreign policy and walk the tight rope of diplomacy to protect the national sovereignty and progress of the democratic system of government in the country".

The party criticized the government of G.P. Koirala for failing to improve the economy. It also pledged to solve the growing unemployment problem and boost the economy through the management of agricultural and forestry based industries and encouraging foreign investment.

"Under the economic resolution the RPP has strongly criticized the Nepali Congress government headed by G.P. Koirala for its failure to mend the national economy, control inflation and provide economic relief to the general public even two years after its election," the spokesman said.

The RPP concluded its first national convention pinning high hopes on emerging as the second major political opposition party in the 1996 general elections, pushing the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) into third place, the party source said.

Pakistan

Paramilitary Search for CIA Killer 'Fruitless'

BK1606113893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1113 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, June 16 (AFP)—Pakistani paramilitary personnel raided homes here Wednesday [16 June] in a fruitless search for the alleged killer of two U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) employees, residents and witnesses said.

The pre-dawn operation was carried out by dozens of soldiers from the Frontier Corps in the city's Kansi Qila area.

Aimal Kansi, a Pakistani from the Pashtun tribe of Kansi, is wanted in the United States for allegedly gunning down two CIA employees outside the agency's headquarters near Washington in February.

The soldiers, who had no search warrants, searched more than 200 homes belonging to Kansi residents, residents said. They carried pictures of Aimal Kansi and asked residents if they had seen him.

It was not known if they got any leads.

Aimal Kansi was seen in Quetta, capital of southwestern Baluchistan province, soon after the incident, but went underground shortly after and there is some suspicion that he might have crossed into neigbouring Afghanistan or Iran.

A team from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation visited Pakistan earlier to help track down the suspect.

Sources said the Baluchistan government had protested to the federal government against the operation, saying it was carried out without warrants or prior notification to provincial authorities here.

Second Round of Government-Opposition Talks Held

BK1506145493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The second round of talks between the PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] and the government for reconciliation was held in Islamabad today. During the five-and-one-half-hour deliberations, the two sides discussed in detail major political issues. A four-member committee headed by the federal minister for food and agriculture, retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, represented the government side. Other members were Defense Minister Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, and MNA's [members of the National Assembly] Mr. Ajmal Khatak and Mir Hafiz Bizenjo. The PDA side was led by the PDA secretary general, Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri. The other members were Senator Iqbal Haider, Mr. Shafqat Mahmud, Syed Kabir Ali Wasti, Syed Wazarat Hussain Naqvi, Mr. Hamid Sarfraz, and Mr. Afrasiyab Khattak.

During the deliberations, both parties presented their point of view regarding constitutional anomalies, the Election Commission, and the general election. References against the PDA leaders and the matter of Placing Bureau appointees were also discussed. Both parties agreed that the points raised during the talks will be discussed with their leaders and further date for negotiations will be announced after mutual consultations.

Spokesmen Comment

BK1506165893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The government-PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] negotiating teams held the second round of talks in Islamabad today lasting for five and one-half hours. They discussed substantial issues to hammer out political reconciliation. Later, the spokesman of the two sides—Mir Hazim Bizenjo, MNA [member of National Assembly] and Mr. Shafqat Mahmud—told newsmen that they agreed on the need for constitutional reforms, including the reconstitution of the Election Commission before the holding of the next election. However, they conceded that the two sides differ on the sequence of priorities.

The spokesman for the government team Mir Hazim Bizenjo said the real cause of the present crisis is the constitutional anomalies which are required to be removed before the next elections are held. He said that the government believed the present assembly had the mandate until October 1995 and should complete its term. However, he said, if negotiations are to be held on holding of early elections, then constitutional reforms should be undertaken first. On the other hand, the spokesman for the PDA team, Mr. Shafqat Mahmud, said the alliance wanted the government to announce a date of election first which should be in October this year under an interim government of national consensus and constitutional amendments should follow. Mir Hazim Bizenjo told newsmen that his side proposed setting up of two commissions to examine on case-to- case basis the question of dismissal of employees of the recruited through the Placement Bureau during the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] period and cases pending against PDA leaders and workers. Answering a question, he said it is the effort of the government to withdraw references against PDA leaders.

Sharif Invites Leaders to Direct Talks

BK1506155093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif today invited senior leaders of political parties to direct talks in order to resolve the current political crisis. He made contact with Maulana Fazlur Rahman, leader of Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, and offered the invitation. Maulana Fazlur Rahman accepted after consultations with his party leaders, including Maulana Mohammad Asghar Khan and Maulana Mohammad Khan Shirani. He told the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN that the meeting is expected to be held tomorrow morning.

Finance Minister Highlights Main Features of Budget

BK1506153693 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 15 Jun 93

[Text] The federal finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, has said the new budget envisages measures to promote investment, reform, and rationalize the taxation system and provide relief to the people. Addressing the post-budget news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, the minister said a strong package has been announced for the capital market which extends by two years tax exemption on capital gains and bonus shares and provides concessions for modarba [investments]. A five-year tax holiday has been given for shipping and mineral sector. Talking about the rationalization of the taxation system, the minister said its main elements include reduction in rates of income, customs, and excise duties on various items, shifting taxation from investment to consumption, measures to discourage smuggling, and system improvement.

Referring to the salient features of the development program, Mr. Sartaj Aziz said there will be more emphasis on the physical infrastructure and a special thurust in social sectors. Power generation capacity will be increased 1,800 megawatts, showing an increase of 18.4 percent; 560,000 new electricity connections will be given and electricity will be provided to another 2,750 villages. The program includes drilling of 37 new oil wells, 238,000 new gas connections, and gas supply to an additional 38 towns and 16 villages. Motorway, Gwadar-Ratto Dero highway, dualization of Karachi-Peshawar Highway and Indus Highway, and construction of 400 km of farm-to-market roads are the other components of the development program.

Under the social action program, five-year targets include increase in primary school enrollment from 12.4 million to 18 million, literacy for males to be increased from 50 to 66 percent, and for females from 25 to 40 percent. Two hundred and fifty-two new basic health centers and 45 rural health centers will be set up and more than 37,800 community health workers will be trained. Safe water coverage will be increased from 47 percent to 70 percent in rural areas.

Views Defense Spending

BK1606104593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Jun 93 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad—Federal Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said on Tuesday [15 June] the government could not think of ignoring defence needs and would continue to meet military's budgetary requirements.

Speaking at the post-budget Press briefing here, Aziz said the budgeted defence spending of Rs 89.1 billion was in fact an increase of about 10 per cent over current year's budget estimate of Rs 82 billion.

The Finance Minister was very prompt in clarifying this point when asked whether the government considered its defence requirements had been reduced. Senator Sartaj did not compare the 1993-94 estimate to the current year's revised figure this time but made a comparison that he would have avoided and argued against last year.

The Finance Minister also used this opportunity, while administering the briefing like a school teacher, to reiterate that Pakistan lost considerably in terms of foreign investment because of the April 18 dissolution of National Assembly, and that foreign currency deposits with bank branches in Pakistan fell by at least $200 million as a consequence of the presidential action.

"Uncertainty is never good for the economy", he observed, adding: "The dissolution led to withdrawal of $200 million from the banking system, along with a fall in remittances from overseas Pakistanis and drop in export proceeds."

He defended the 10 per cent increase in petrol and petroleum product rates by saying the government would be earning on consumption of superior quality motor fuel only while diesel will be selling at the minimum possible price even after the raise.

"We would have been subsidizing diesel fuel after a month by not raising its price by the proposed 10 percent", he asserted.

He said the import duty on motor cars and air-conditioning units was reduced not to encourage import of luxury items but to rationalise the tariff structure and take away undue protection currently available to the local industry.

Elaborating, he said this would ansure that the automobile industry here does not fix exorbitant prices for their products but only get ample profit margin. Having reduced the duty so drastically, he added, the government is still providing about 50 percent tariff protection to the local industry.

Justifying the heavy slash in rates of duty on cars of bigger engine capacity, the Minister said the government took this step to bring the maximum duty rate down to 200 pecent. "The rate 500 per cent duty on these cars was ridiculous", he asserted.

The minister also explained that 500 per cent duty was fixed on cars of higher engine capacity when a dollar could be bought for rupees 5. He said rationalisting tariff rates had become imperative after such heavy devaluation of rupees over the years.

He said none of the essential items was brought under the sales tax cover, but only semi-luxury items were included in the list. No one asked the finance minister if he considered bath soaps a semi-luxury item. Washing soaps, one may mention, are not included in the list of items under the sales tax cover. In his brief overview of the budgetary policies, the finance minister said the 1993-94 Federal Budget envisaged four basic objectives of promoting investmetn, reforming and rationalising tax system, introducing major initiatives in development, relief and welfare.

'Significant Cuts' in Defense Funds

BK1506123193 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Jun 93 pp 1,4

[Text] Islamabad—Significant cuts have been made in the operational funds made available to the Pakistan's armed forces in the defence budget for 1993-94, a military expert told THE NATION.

Ostensibly, the government's finance bill for the next fiscal [year] incorporates a symbolic 1.9 percent rise in the defence budget from the revised figured of Rs.[Rupees] 87.439 billion for 1992-93 to Rs 89.103 billion for 1993-94. In comparison to the original budget estimate for defence for 1992-93, the new budget represents a rise of 8.45 percent. But with the official annual inflation rate at 10 percent, the defence outlay has been cut in real terms.

This confirms the decision taken by the Defence Committee of the Cabinet last November to freeze the defence budget at the 1992-93 level, which was taken under intense pressure from international donor agencies.

All the same, the armed forces are facing tough times. According to the break-up for the Rs 81.972 billion allocated for defence services in the last budget, 32 percent was spent on servicing foreign debts incurred by on-going procurement of major equipment from overseas. This included the induction of three French mine-hunter ships, a dozen French Lama helicopters, investment in the rebuilding of PAF C-130 transport aircraft in Singapore and the comparatively small-scale, but

extremely expensive import of ammunition not yet indigenously produced by the Ordance Factories.

Approximately 40 percent went on salaries allowances and pensions, a growing headache for the financial managers of the Defence Ministry, while operating costs accounted the balance 28 percent.

This figure was later revised upwards to Rs. 87.2496 billion, largely because of the September superfloods, which required extraordinary activity from the armed forces, especially by the Engineering Corps and the Army Aviation Wing.

Under the budget for 1993-94, there is to be a substantial realignment in the method of expenditure, with operational costs bearing the brunt of the burden. While a lack of funds, caused by the cut-off in US military assistance under the Pressier Amendment since 1991, have already caused substantive cuts in operations, due to a shortage of fuel and spare parts (otherwise available at commercial rates). [sentence as published] It is worth nothing that there were widespread complaints at the last Corps Commanders meeting against the ban on major military exercises imposed by the financial crisis.

As such, operational expenditure may be cut by as much as a quarter, meaning that track mileague allowed to the Army's Armoured Corps, steaming time allocated to the Navy and flying-time available to the Air Force will suffer.

The Defence Production Division will also be juggling with the limited funds available to it for further defence procument. The armed forces have four immediate requirements which should really have been met by now—a division of tanks for the Army, a replacement for the 72 F-16s withheld by the US, and frigates and submarines for the Navy. Considering the lack of funds. The Joint Chiefs of Staff Committees last week decided that priority would have to be given to the Navy, which has recently lost its fleet of frigates leased from the Americans, thanks again to the Pressler Amendment.

But of primary concern is the commission establised by the government to consider a proposal for an across-the-board 20 percent rise in the salaries of state employees. The armed forces are already looking into the possiblity of giving newly-retired personnel a substantial lumpsum, instead of pension plus a smaller one-time payment, as is currently the case.

If implemented, the effect of a 20 percent increase in salaries would prove economically crippling.

Bhutto Says Budget Favors Business

BK1506124593 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Jun 93 pp 1,4

[Text] Islamabad—Giving her first reaction on the National budget, PPP [Pakistan People's Party] co-Chairperson has said that the government has squeezed the people once more through heavy taxation to overcome the deficit whereas the businessmen have been protected.

While talking to newsmen in her chamber at the Parliament House, she described the present setup as "a government of the businessmen, by the businessmen and for the businessmen." She said that although businessmen are an important segment of the society by they are not the only community which has to be protected. [sentence as published]

"We are deeply concerned at the heavy taxes imposed on the common man." This is certainly not a budget which shows economic stability in the country, Benazir Bhutto remarked. She accused Federal Finance Minister, Sariaj Aziz of misquoting the facts and figures before the nation. She also held the government responsible for adopting such reckless expenditure which has made the entire nation to pay for it.

The Leader of the Opposition said that this is the cause of concern for her party that the government has not spelt out any sound programme to control the deficit. "I have stated at a number of times that unless the deficit is brought under control, the inflation will continue to rise and the country will not prosper under such conditions. I had said it a year ago that the deficit would cross Rs [Rupees] 100 billion mark but the government kept on claiming that it would not go beyond Rs 60 to 65 billion. It has now proved that the government's claim is wrong.

Benazir Bhutto said that people have been forced to face the brunt of Rs 22 billion taxes. She said since the government is unable to control or even restrict the deficit, the common man has been pushed to the limit. "This is not a budget for the middle and the working class." The PPP leader [is] of the view that the businessmen would be happy and celebrate that they have been spared but stressed that "we should also think about the poor who have been neglected." She said she would speak on the budget on June 16 in which she would give facts how the government has played with figures.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Farooq Leghari and PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] [leader] Syed Iqbal Haider. Leghari's comment was that looters and thieves have been given protection in the new budget. Mr Leghari, who was the finance minister in the caretaker government and himself knew a lot about the preparations of the Budget said that real financial situation is contrary to what the government has painted.

Iqbal Haider criticized the budget saying that there has been not a single relief measure for the common man. He said that the Mercedes and Pajero culture is being promoted by withdrawing 60 and 50 percent import duty respectively.

Supreme Court Refuses Appeal Request by Punjab Government

BK1606115693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] A full bench of the Supreme Court in Lahore today refused the special leave to an appeal filed by the Punjab government and the chief minister against the interim order of a full bench of Lahore High Court. Under the interim order on the ninth of this month, the Lahore High Court had temporarily restored the Punjab Assembly and the cabinet of Mian Manzur Ahmad Wattoo till the pendency of the writ petition filed by Chaudhary Parvez Elahi against the Punjab governor's order of dissolving the assembly on the 29th of last month after hearing arguments from counsels of the both sides. The Supreme Court observed that the interim order of the high court was of regularity nature and if the appellants had any grievance they should approach the high court itself for modification of the interim order.

Punjab MP's Demonstrate, Demand Assembly Restoration

BK1606121093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 16 Jun 93

[Text] One hundred and thirty-seven members of the Punjab Assembly belonging to Pakistan Muslim League [PML] staged a march in Islamabad today. The members wearing badges inscribed with their names and constituency's numbers led by their leader in the Punjab Assembly, Chaudhary Parvez Elahi, and the president of PML of Punjab, Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne, later reached the Parliament House and met the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, and the chairman of Senate, Mr. Wasim Sajjad. They presented two memoranda to the speaker and the chairman reiterating their commitment to uphold the law and Constitution. They vowed to continue their legal and constitutional battle for restoration of the Punjab assembly.

Talking to newsmen at a hotel, Chaudhary Parvez Elahi and Mr. Ghulam Haider Wyne challenged their political opponents to prove their majority after they have demonstrated before the [word indistinct] their strength in the provincial assembly.